

China said checking Iran arms

PEKING (AP) — China has said it was seriously investigating whether Chinese arms were being sent to Iran by third parties, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Saturday. Salah Khalaf, head of a PLO delegation in China, told a news conference that Chinese officials had said Chinese weapons might have reached Iran by indirect routes under recent rules allowing Chinese arms exports. Iran's Ambassador to China, Ali Akbar Mojtahedi, says last month about reports that his country was using Chinese-made missiles in the Gulf war, replied that any Chinese arms which Iran might be using were either bought on the international arms market or captured from Iraqi forces. Mr. Khalaf said China "denounced as a rumour" reports that Peking had itself sent arms to Iran. He said China had reaffirmed that it followed a policy of positive neutrality in the Gulf war and sought to play a mediating role between Iran and Iraq. "They said that recently Chinese weapons are allowed to be exported from China and there might be a third party which sent the weapons to Iran, and they confirmed that they were making a serious investigation of this question," he said.

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King receives cable from Assad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cable from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad reciprocating to His Majesty's congratulatory cable on the occasion of Syria's national day. President Assad wished King Hussein good health and prosperity for the Jordanian people.

OIC urges U.N. action to stop Israeli attacks

JEDDAH (AP) — The 46-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Saturday called for a U.N. Security Council intervention to halt Israeli air raids on Palestinian camps in Lebanon. OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh made the call in a cable he sent to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said a statement released at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah. Israeli warplanes have struck Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon 15 times since January, killing 52 people and wounding 156, by Lebanese police count. Mr. Pirzadeh urged Mr. Perez de Cuellar to have the U.N. Security Council also deal with a blockade Israel has imposed on the Sidon and Tyre ports in South Lebanon. He said the blockade jeopardised economic activities in Lebanon and added to Lebanon's socio-economic hardship.

Tindemans arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Belgian Foreign Minister and European Economic Community (EEC) official Leo Tindemans arrived in Israel Saturday for a three-day visit during which he is expected to push for a Middle East peace conference. Mr. Tindemans, chairman of the EEC's governing council of ministers, was met at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has been actively promoting a conference. Mr. Tindemans was also expected to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other government officials during his three-day visit. In a brief statement to reporters upon his arrival, Mr. Tindemans said he had come "to try and advance the Middle East peace process."

3 JDL members held for bombings

NEW YORK (AP) — Three members of the Jewish Defence League (JDL) have been arrested in a series of bombings and a tear-gas attack at the opening of a Soviet dance troupe at Lincoln Centre, authorities said Friday. Thomas Sheer, FBI assistant director in charge of New York, identified the suspects as Victor Vancier, 30, also known as Chaim Ben Yosef, self-professed leader of the JDL, Jay Cohen, 23, and Sharon Katz, all of New York City. The suspects were accused of taking part in a firebombing of a Pan Am loading dock at Kennedy airport on April 28, 1986; tear-gassing a performance of the Soviet Moiseyev dance company at the Metropolitan Opera House Sept. 2, and firebombing a stage door of Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Centre last Oct. 20.

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Polish airliner crashes near Warsaw, 183 killed

WARSAW (Agencies) — A New York-bound airliner of the Polish state airline Lot crashed and exploded in a Warsaw suburb on Saturday, killing all 183 passengers and crew instantly in the country's worst air disaster, the airline said.

Eyewitnesses quoted by news agencies said the Soviet-built Ilyushin 62M, its starboard engines gushing black smoke, plunged into a pine forest 300 metres from the village of Dabrowka as the pilot tried to return to Okciec airport.

A Western diplomat at the airport said 70 of the 172 passengers were Polish and the others had foreign passports. The passenger list included one baby. According to unofficial Lot sources, the four-engined Ilyushin was about 200 kilometres northwest of Warsaw when the captain radioed that he was turning back.

The stricken aircraft, laden with fuel for its nine-hour charter flight to the United States, was only five kilometres from Okciec when it plunged into the ground at 11.12 a.m., 54 minutes after take-off.

Eyewitnesses said the pilot was clearly struggling to avoid built-up areas, including a large housing estate, as the blue and white liveried plane came down in Kabaty forest in the southwest of the capital.

A professional pilot who saw it rapidly losing altitude told Reuters: "I watched it disappear and then there was an enormous explosion and a mushroom of black smoke."

"I jumped into my car and rushed to the spot in case I could help but there was nothing but ashes, bits of wreckage and small fires that neighbours and I extinguished with spades before the fire service got there."

It was the worst commercial air accident in Poland since World War II. The probable cause of the crash was the failure of two of the jetliner's four engines, state radio reported.

The crash occurred as government officials were holding ceremonies in Warsaw to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the end of World War II, which in the Soviet bloc is marked on May 9. Immediately after news of the crash was made public, state radio changed its scheduled programming from more popular music to solemn, classical music.

The radio report said, "The probable cause of the crash was failure of two engines. The plane caught fire. According to the information at our disposal, no body survived."

A fire official said the plane cut through trees for about 500 metres before striking the ground and breaking into pieces.

The official, Krzysztof Wisniewski, a senior fire brigade officer, said the jet caught fire while in the air and the pilot was attempting to return to the airport when the plane went down.

He said the pilot, after turning back toward Warsaw, unloaded all but 32 tonnes of the 220 tonnes of highly flammable fuel the jet was carrying.

Mr. Wisniewski said the burning plane set fire to about four hectares of woods but the blaze was extinguished, he said.

Police sealed off the area of the crash. Residents living nearby reported there could be no survivors.

"Doctors came, had a look, and there was no one to save," said Anna Zagorska, 26, a gardener. "Hands and legs were hanging from the trees. It's difficult to describe in words."

The woman said the plane went down about 60 metres into the forest.

Most of a fleet of vans from the city morgue apparently left the crash site empty because so little trace remained of the victims.

Houses in Dabrowka, which has a population of about 3,000, had their windows smashed by the explosion but no casualties were reported.

Lot official Stefan Zielinski told Reuters the aircraft's flight recorder had been recovered.

"I saw the plane diving, nose down," he said. "There was an explosion that shattered the glass in our house. Bodies were lying all around. There is nothing, just bodies."

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Palestinians mourn victims of Israeli air attack in S. Lebanon

AIN AL HILWEH, Lebanon (R) — Women fainted or sobbed hysterically as the coffins of eight people killed in Israel's latest air raid on South Lebanon were buried in a mass grave near this Palestinian refugee camp.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials led thousands of refugees in a funeral procession from the camp's mosque to a cemetery in nearby Darb As Sim village.

Koranic verses and nationalistic songs blared from loudspeakers as crowds watched the bodies being lifted from their coffins and laid side by side in the same grave.

"Let me see my father. Don't take him away," screamed Ibtisam. She and two other women fainted when her father's body, wrapped in blood-stained sheets, was lowered into the ground.

Ibtisam's 10-year-old sister was also among the 12 people killed in Friday's air strike, the third in eight days on Palestinian targets around the southern port of Sidon.

"I shall avenge their deaths and their blood will not be forgotten," vowed Ibtisam's brother Bilal, 18, in tears.

Shops, schools and business shut in 'Ain Al Hilweh in protest at the Israeli raid, which devastated a civilian neighbourhood as well as destroying six Palestinian bases in surrounding hills.

"Let it be a day to show our disgust and condemnation of the Arab and international silence about the massacres against us," said a statement by the camp's popular committee.

'Ain Al Hilweh, its population swollen to 80,000 by Palestinians fleeing the "camps war" with Shi'ite militiamen in Beirut and Tyre to the south, is the largest concentration of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

It is a stronghold for the Fatah faction, which said three of its fighters were killed by Israeli troops hours before Friday's air raid.

Israel said its troops killed two fighters and captured three inside Lebanon. The fighters had apparently planned to attack the northern Israeli coastal resort of Nahariyah.

Israel has also blamed Fatah for a series of cross-border Katyusha rocket attacks.

At least 37 people have been killed and 119 wounded since May 1 in three Israeli air raids in the Sidon area.

Carbomb kills 1 in Zghorta as Gemayel meets Franjeh

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — A carbomb blast killed one person and wounded 34 in the north Lebanese town of Zghorta on Saturday, during a visit by President Amin Gemayel, police said.

They said a saloon car exploded in the tree-lined main street of the mainly Christian town about two kilometres from the palace where Mr. Gemayel was lunching with former President Suleiman Franjeh.

The blast killed a middle-aged motorist and injured 34 people, mostly shoppers or patrons of street cafes, in the mountain town 65 kilometres north of Beirut.

An official source quoted by Reuters said an army helicopter took Mr. Gemayel back to Beirut about one hour after the explosion.

Mr. Gemayel, a Christian, arrived in Zghorta by helicopter earlier in the day for the talks with Mr. Franjeh, Syria's major Christian ally in Lebanon.

The explosion coincided with stepped-up Syrian security arrangements in Zghorta and nearby villages, one week after a shootout between two prominent Christian clans killed five people and wounded four.

The firefight was triggered by a soccer match in the village of Erdej, power base of both the Franjeh and Dweithi clans.

Supporters of the winning team from the Dweithi clan fired automatic rifles in the air in the traditional Lebanese way of victory celebration, provoking Mr. Franjeh's Marada (Giants) militia to shoot at their rivals.

Mr. Gemayel was apparently discussing with Mr. Franjeh a cabinet crisis caused by the resignation of Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Franjeh have been at odds since the former president accused militia supporters of Mr. Gemayel's late brother Bashir of killing his son Ton and Tony's wife and daughter in 1978.

Mr. Franjeh met Mr. Gemayel last year during talks among former presidents on peace talks with Damascus to end Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war.

Mr. Gemayel strained his ties with Syria when he refused to endorse a Syrian-mediated peace plan in January 1986. Mr. Franjeh joined Muslim leaders in urging the president to resign.

Mr. Gemayel is trying to solve the government crisis which erupted last Monday when Mr. Karami resigned. Mr. Karami and other Muslim cabinet ministers have boycotted the Maronite Christian leader since January 1986.

Friday, an army spokesman denied knowledge of any shootings in the West Bank on Friday.

In a separate incident, the Israeli army clamped a curfew on the West Bank town of Qalqilya after two petrol bombs were hurled at Israeli vehicles overnight.

The army detained two Palestinians after the firebomb attacks which caused no damage or injuries, reports said.

On Wednesday, Jewish settlers from the nearby settlement of Alfei Menashe broke through an army blockade outside Qalqilya and buried bottles at Arab stores following another petrol bomb attack in the area.

U.S. says strategic arms accord possible this year

GENEVA (Agencies) — American arms negotiators have presented at the Geneva superpower talks a draft accord to halve intercontinental nuclear arsenals, saying such a pact could be signed this year.

The move sparked new life into the talks on long-range missiles, which have tended to be overshadowed by recent debate over a possible accord on medium-range weapons.

First Soviet reaction to the new American initiative, as carried by the official TASS news agency, was that it lacked a most important element, the key problem of preventing an arms race in space.

The other arms category under discussion in the three-tier talks since March 1985, when the latest superpower arms control effort began, is space weapons.

The two sides have already presented draft treaties to scrap all medium-range missiles in Europe.

TASS said the Soviet delegation in Geneva had stated that a key problem in implementing 50 per cent reductions in strategic weapons was the prevention of an arms race in space and the preservation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty's conditions.

However, TASS added that the U.S. draft would be studied by the Kremlin.

In Geneva, Ronald Lehman, the chief U.S. negotiator for strategic nuclear arms, said the U.S. draft called for halving the superpowers' strategic arsenals over seven years.

He said the proposed treaty was based on agreements in principle reached between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Iceland summit last November.

That meeting foundered over Mr. Reagan's strategic defence initiative (SDI) for a land and space-based anti-missile system.

Mr. Lehman told a news conference that Washington "places the highest priority on achieving significant and stabilising reductions in the offensive nuclear arsenals" of the superpowers.

Murphy begins Gulf talks

MUSCAT (Agencies) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy on Saturday started official talks in Gulf Arab states, focusing on the Iran-Iraq war and regional security, Western diplomatic sources said.

Mr. Murphy's mission in the Gulf, the sources told AP, is primarily designed at reassuring the Gulf states of Washington's support in wake of the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

"The visit is to show the Gulf that the Americans do care ... that they want to put Iran back behind them, reassure the Gulf states and talk about where to go from here on the Gulf war," a ranking diplomat told AP.

The start of Mr. Murphy's visit coincided with the visit of a pan-Arab delegation to Washington seeking help in pushing through a settlement to the Iran-Iraq war whose threats to international shipping in the gulf have been escalating.

The group met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan who reportedly told them the United States strongly supported a negotiated settlement to the war.

They earlier met with Secretary of State George Shultz who also said the U.S. was prepared to support "appropriate enforcement measures" against either side in the war refusing to cooperate with U.N. Security Council efforts to end the conflict.

Mr. Reagan also reassured the delegation that the United States would supply no arms to Iran or Iraq and would discourage other countries from doing so, members of the delegation said.

Clovis Maksud, Washington representative of the Arab League, said Mr. Reagan "reassured the Arab League delegation of the American commitment to the staunch operation whereby they try to persuade other countries not to sell arms."

Mr. Maksud also said that the delegation, which met Thursday with Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Vice President George Bush, got the impression from his meetings "that the United States has every intention of no longer supplying any kinds of arms."

He said Mr. Bush gave the group "complete assurance that what has taken place in recent months (the sale of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to rebels in Nicaragua) has been more or less a deflection."

Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of North Yemen, said, "We have had a very positive statement from President Reagan which goes along with the statement he made last February that the world must show an extra responsibility to bring an end to this conflict."

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah met Gulf Arab ambassadors on Saturday amid what diplomats called fresh concern over threats to Gulf shipping following a recent attack on a Soviet freighter.

(Continued on page 3)

Violence sweeps S. Africa after whites-only election

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Widespread black political violence was reported by the South African government on Saturday in the wake of the ruling National Party's (NP) landslide victory in a whites-only general election.

The official bureau for information reported arson, stoning and shooting attacks in six black townships on Friday and said a train was set ablaze in central Johannesburg in violence linked to a two-month-old strike by black transport workers.

It said four blacks were arrested but no-one was injured in the incidents following Wednesday's election triumph by President P.W. Botha's ruling NP, which has ruled since 1948.

The extreme right-wing Conservative Party, which wants a return to strict racial segregation, took more than a quarter of the votes and replaced the liberal Progressive Federal Party as the official parliamentary opposition.

Black leaders like Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi have predicted that the sharp swing to the right could intensify racial conflict which has claimed some 2,500 lives since 1984.

The bureau for information said four classrooms and two laboratories were set on fire at a high school in Athlone near Cape Town, causing extensive damage.

Blacks threw a petrol bomb at a police vehicle in the nearby township of Guguletu. Houses in two townships near Durban were attacked with stones and petrol bombs, the bureau said.

It reported that another house was petrol-bombed in Lingshith township in the Eastern Cape province, apparently because a girl who lived there was dating a member of the security forces.

In another development, the Citizen, a pro-government English-language daily, quoted a police official as saying that two explosions that rocked the headquarters of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) on Thursday probably were caused by explosives originating in the Soviet Union.

Lebanon's national airline to resume Beirut flights

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's national airline, Middle East Airlines (MEA), said Saturday it would resume flights at Beirut airport from Sunday after a 98-day stoppage.

"The company would like to announce the resumption of its flights to and from Beirut airport and the first plane will land tomorrow," an MEA statement said.

The decision followed agreement Friday night with insurance firms, which agreed to restore cover on MEA passengers using the airport.

The statement said insurers had demanded high premiums and that MEA would be forced to increase airfares to cover higher insurance costs.

The first MEA aircraft was expected in Beirut at 0900 GMT Sunday from Larnaca, Cyprus. It would be a test flight, with no passengers. Regular passenger services would resume on Monday, the statement added.

The airline halted all operations in Beirut on Feb. 1. Insurers had withdrawn passenger cover because of artillery attacks on the airport and a warning to MEA

from the main Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militia to stop using the runways.

The militia is pressing for the opening of a makeshift airport at Halat, a strip of highway 25 kilometres north of the divided capital and now used by tiny Lebanese Air Force.

Many Christians fear being kidnapped while travelling through Muslim areas to reach the existing airport on the southern edge of Beirut.

Beirut airport has shut on 13 occasions — totalling 624 days — over the past 12 years of civil war. The longest single closure lasted 154 days in 1984.

Foreign airlines no longer use it because fighting has frequently taken place in the area.

Last February, however, some 7,000 Syrian troops moved into mainly Muslim West Beirut to quell militia anarchy. Together with Lebanese security forces,

they regularly patrol the main road linking Beirut with the airport terminal.

Some opposition leaders oppose the opening of an alternative airport at Halat, saying it would be a further step towards outright partition of Lebanon along sectarian lines.

But a "Lebanese Forces" official told Reuters Saturday that flights would resume at Beirut airport and "a definite promise would be given to authorise the opening of Halat later."

An MEA spokesman refused to say whether the airline's decision to resume flights was linked with any move to establish Halat as an alternative centre for international civil flights.

Political sources say Druze Transport Minister Walid Junblatt, whose own supporters have been in a state of armed confrontation with the "Lebanese Forces" for several years, would have to authorise establishment of a new airport.

Mr. Junblatt last month set up a special committee to study safety conditions of airports at military bases and called on the committee to meet on Monday.

Washington expected to return \$453m to Tehran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is expected to return about \$453 million to Iran next week, following an international tribunal's order, U.S. officials say.

The U.S.-Iranian claims tribunal ruled last Monday that Iran was entitled to the amount. The money was left over from funds Iran put into the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank in 1981 to repay money lent by American banks before the 1978-79 Iranian revolution.

The United States has acknowledged it owes the money, but has held up repayment while seeking public acknowledgment that returning the money to Iran is not considered an attempt to ransom hostages or serve any other political purpose.

In its ruling, the Hague-based tribunal stated that return of the assets had "no relation or link whatsoever to the issue of hostages held in Lebanon or any other political matter, as both parties have declared."

The U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Friday that administration legal experts concluded that the court's statement satisfied their desire for a public disclaimer and recommended to President Ronald Reagan that the funds be returned.

The amount in question is the sum remaining from \$3.7 billion deposited in the New York Federal Reserve Bank. As of May 4, the amount was \$453 million, but it increases each day with interest.

Repayment of the money will not end the financial relationship between the two countries. About \$65 million will be left in the Fed account to cover possible claims by U.S. banks, a State Department official said.

In addition, the claims tribunal, which is composed of judges from Iran, the United States and one neutral country on a rotating basis, still is hearing cases brought by Iranians whose assets were frozen in the United States after the American embassy was seized in 1979.

It also is hearing cases brought by Americans whose assets were nationalised by Iran.

Lyon Arab centre attacked

LYON, France (R) — An Arab youth centre in Lyon was attacked early Saturday and the raiders left behind a photograph of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, who is to stand trial here on Monday, police said.

Police said racist slogans like "no armistice for Arabs," were daubed on the walls of the Lyon Centre for Young Arabs. More than three million Arab immigrants live in France.

Iran reportedly preparing new offensive

By Ed Blanche
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The 64-year-old Gulf war appears to be balanced between Iran's military offensives and Iraq's tightening squeeze on Tehran's economic jugular — its oil exports.

Iran's increasing military capabilities, and a renewed threat to tanker routes from Iran's deployment of Chinese-made missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, have attracted substantial attention throughout the region.

Iranian forces, backed by commandos and Kurdish guerrillas operating behind Iraqi lines, stabbed to north east Iraq on April 24 in what appears to be a limited offensive to nibble away at Iraqi defences.

In the southern sector of the 1,180-kilometre front, there are persistent signs that the Iranians are massing forces east of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, for a renewed push.

The Iranians launched a 60,000-man offensive, Karbala-5, against Basra on Jan. 9. Iran seized a chunk of marshland east of the city and a string of islands in the Shatt Al Arab waterway in the thrust.

Karbala-5, which broke through three Iraqi defence lines and advanced further than the Iraqis had expected, finally stalled 10 kilometres east of the battered city after some of the bloodiest fighting of the war.

Reports have surfaced in re-

cent days that large formations of Revolutionary Guards, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's special forces, have been moved to the front's central sector.

Western military sources, who spoke on condition of not being identified, reported that vast arms dumps have been built up around the southern Iranian oil city of Ahwaz — the rear headquarters for Karbala-5 — and the garrison town of Dezful in the central sector.

They now appear determined to avoid World War I-style mass offensives, concentrating instead on operations using one or two divisions that exploit weaknesses in Iraq's formidable but cumbersome defence line.

The operations seem most prominent in mountainous or marshy areas where Iraq's superior firepower loses its effectiveness.

Iran's parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, noted that the use in Karbala-10 of helicopter-borne troops to leapfrog Iraqi defences and commandos backed by Kurdish irregulars in the Iraqi rear was "our first successful experience in combining classical and guerrilla warfare techniques."

While the Iranians appear to be doing well on the ground, the Iraqis are still masters of the skies.

The Iranian thrusts have forced the Iraqis to divert their air power from punishing raids on Iran's economic centres to the battlefield.

But despite the loss of as many as 50 warplanes in winter battles, the Iraqis have resumed heavy bombing attacks on Iran's offshore oilfields, pumping stations and loading terminals.

Iraqi warplanes have stepped up attacks on Iranian tankers

carrying oil to less vulnerable loading terminals in a bid to choke off oil exports that pay for Tehran's war effort.

Twenty tankers have been hit this year.

Iran has managed to maintain its exports, despite a serious dip a few months ago. But analysts believe that if exports fall below 1 million barrels a day for a prolonged period, Tehran would be in trouble.

Iran's deployment of the Chinese-made missiles at the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf's only outlet, attracted the interest, and naval presence, of the United States, Soviet Union and other countries interested in keeping oil shipments from the region unimpeded.

Kuwait, an oil-producing nation on the Gulf that Iran accuses of aiding Iraq, has asked the superpowers for protection from Iranian attacks on its oil tankers. Iran has threatened to retaliate against any outside help for Kuwait.

Baghdad has declared that Iran's failure to take Basra or achieve the victory Tehran's leaders had promised by the end of the Persian year March 21 meant the Iranians were in trouble.

But military analysts said the pattern of Iranian operations has indicated that their strategy is to wear down Iraq's formidable war machine with a chain of offensive aimed at undermining support for the government.

Lebanese Falangists refuse to give up power

By Samir F. Ghattas
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Lebanon's once-dominant Falangists, ringed by opposition rivals after 12 years of civil war, are again by feuds but united in refusing to make political concessions to the opposition majority.

Driven out of the central mountains and the coastal plain, Lebanon's estimated 1.1 million Christians — the only Christians holding power in the Mideast — are now squeezed into an enclave running north from Beirut.

The Christians, a mixture of Maronite and Greek Catholics and Greek Orthodox, fear they may be overwhelmed by the estimated 1.9 million Muslims, particularly Iranian-backed Shiite fundamentalists seeking to carve out an Islamic Republic in the war-ravaged country.

Syria, the opposition's main backer with 30,000 troops in Lebanon, has sometimes fought the Falangists.

The Falangists see Syria as a hostile giant bent on absorbing them into a Muslim state.

Syrian-sponsored negotiations to end the civil war have stalled, mainly because of Falangist intransigence.

The opposition is demanding an equal share of power with the Falangists, who have dominated the government, parliament, judiciary and army since independence from France in 1943.

Under an unwritten covenant, the presidency has always gone to a member of the Maronites, the main Christian sect. The prime minister is traditionally a Sunni Muslim, while the Shiites hold the parliament speakership.

The opposition also is driving

to trim the powers of the presidency, currently held by Amin Gemayel, scion of one of the Maronites' leading political dynasties.

The president chooses the prime minister and can dissolve the cabinet and the 99-seat parliament, in which Christians hold a 6-5 edge.

Samir Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces, the Falangists' main militia, has proposed a new system of government based on what he calls "political decentralisation."

"It wouldn't matter whether the president is Christian or not under this system," he said in an interview.

His blueprint acknowledges that Lebanon has been dismembered into sectarian mini-states ruled by militia warlords, in effect ceasing to exist as a country. About 125,000 people have died in the 12-year-old war.

The Falangist turf is split between the Gemayel-Geagea alliance and former President Suleiman Franjeh, their long-time rival.

The Druze control the central mountains. The Shiites are entrenched in Beirut's southern slums and South Lebanon.

The Sunnis, once the most influential Muslim sect, have no clear-cut bastions, but dominate the southern port of Sidon. Israeli troops occupy a border strip in the south and Syria controls an estimated one-third of the country.

"We want a system that preserves the rights, identity and culture of all Lebanese groups," said Geagea, a 34-year-old former medical student. "But we will never agree to put Christians

under Muslim domination."

Other Falangists propose amending the 1943 covenant to split top government posts on a more equitable basis.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a Sunni who has scrapped with Mr. Gemayel since December 1985, has charged that Mr. Gemayel was "unwilling to make any concessions that would bring about national reconciliation."

Mr. Karami said the opposition "is the majority, but we're only demanding equality."

George Saade, leader of the right-wing Falange Party, said that to guarantee security, the presidency should continue to be a Christian preserve.

"The state can't be ruled by two heads or without any. It is ruled by one," he told the Associated Press. "Some people consider the things we're clinging to as privileges, but we consider them guarantees."

Said Dabbas Chamoun, leader of the Christians' National Liberal Party, "since Christians are represented by one and Muslims by two in the (government) trioka, we refuse to have the executive powers of the president reduced."

Falangist leaders disagree on relations with Syria. Like the opposition, Franjeh advocates "distinguished relations" with Damascus.

Mr. Saade says that although Damascus favours the opposition, ties with Syria should be "normal, providing they preserve the sovereignty, independence and dignity of Lebanon."

But Geagea and Chamoun regard the Syrians as an occupation force.

Khashoggi says he set up \$10m fund

ROME (AP) — Adnan Khashoggi, a key figure in the U.S. "Irangate" controversy, was quoted as saying that he set up a \$10-million trust fund for Americans and the Iranians.

Telemontecarlo, a television channel in Italy, said it interviewed the Saudi Arabian businessman in Venice on Wednesday. The interview was scheduled to be aired Saturday afternoon, but Telemontecarlo on Friday distributed excerpts from it.

"Just to start the dialogue between them, I put trust funds that could be used for the Americans and for the Iranians until they can trust each other," Mr. Khashoggi was quoted as saying.

Asked about reports that he lost an estimated \$25 million because of his involvement in U.S. arms sales to Iran, the businessman was quoted as replying the amount was exaggerated. "The true amount is \$10 million plus interest," he said.

He was also asked if U.S. President Ronald Reagan knew about all the intricacies involved in the Irangate trust funds.

"I don't know for sure because I was not involved with the president," Mr. Khashoggi was quoted as replying.

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are conducting joint hearings probing the Irangate affair.

Iranian official arrives in UAE

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (Agencies) — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived Saturday on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, the UAE official news agency WAM reported.

Mr. Besharati will have talks with officials in the UAE on the recent developments in the region and bilateral relations, WAM said without elaborating.

In a departure statement from Tehran, Mr. Besharati was quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) as saying he will try to "neutralise the mischievous attempts of certain countries to create tension in the Gulf region."

He was apparently referring to Kuwait's quest for tankers flying Soviet and American flags as means of protection for its oil shipments against Iranian attacks.

Mr. Besharati's visit came a day after Gulf-based maritime shipping executives reported that Iran has attacked a freighter flying the Soviet flag after it sailed from Kuwait. It was the first Iranian attack on a Soviet vessel in the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq war on Gulf shipping routes.

The attack was carried out after leaders in Tehran warned Kuwait that Iran will not be deterred by the U.S. and Soviet flags from pursuing its policy of a tit-for-tat strike for Iraqi raids on Iranian tanker routes.

UAE President Sheikh Ibn Sul-

tan Al Nahayan is the current chairman of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance which also groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Following the recent fighting in the Gulf war, "certain powers and traditional supporters" of Iraq have been trying to "stir up an artificial crisis" in the region, said Mr. Besharati.

"The most surprising thing is the Soviet Union's presence in this connection," he was quoted by IRNA, which is monitored in Nicosia.

Moscow has been the main arms supplier of Iraq, which has been fighting a 6½-year-old war with Iran.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei said in Tehran Friday that Iran will not ignore Moscow's "unacceptable" support for Iraq.

Gulf-based maritime sources reported Friday that Iranian gunboats raked a Soviet freighter, the Ivan Koroteyev, with cannon fire earlier in the week as it sailed in the southern Gulf.

The Soviet News Agency TASS confirmed the incident but did not identify the attacks. The attack was the first on a Soviet ship since the Gulf war broke out.

Iran's chief justice, Abdul Karim Musavi Ardebili, warned last week Kuwait would "bear the consequences" of involving the superpowers in the Gulf, the latest in a string of threats against the tiny Arab Gulf state closest to the war zone.

Iran has been singling out Kuwait-related ships in recent months for their attacks, in retaliation for Iraqi air strikes against Iranian oil terminals and Gulf shipping. Iran accuses Kuwait of supporting Iraq.

Kuwait has chartered three Soviet tankers to carry its oil and seeks to register some of its 21 state-owned tankers under the U.S. flag.

The Kuwaitis say the major powers must help defend oil exports from the Gulf. Twenty per cent of the non-Communist World's oil passes through the waterway.

More than 200 ships have been attacked by Iran and Iraq in the tanker war, a three-year-old offshoot of the Gulf conflict.

Mr. Besharati said he will inform UAE officials of the sensitive situation in the region. "We hope that those who fan flames of tension will themselves become aware of the dangerous consequences of their actions," he told IRNA.

Meanwhile a Kuwaiti newspaper said Saturday the United States was the Arabs' top enemy and indirectly urged Kuwait to review proposals to register its tankers under the American flag to shield oil exports from Iranian attacks.

The daily Al Rai Al Aam, traditionally anti-U.S. and sometimes critical of Communism, carried a front-page editorial headlined: "An open invitation to the Soviets."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Koran
14:20 Programme Review
14:25 Cartoons
14:45 Ramadan Contest
14:55 Local Previews
16:00 Cooking Programme
16:35 Arabic Play
17:15 Historical Series (Ibn Khaldoun)
18:00 Religious Programme
18:10 Arabic Series
19:00 Religious Programme
19:30 Ramadan Competition
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Arabic Series
22:15 Tomorrow's Programme
22:20 Local Series
23:10 Interview with ...
23:50 Arabic Film
01:45 Religious Programme

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 St. Versailles in detail conte
19:00 News in French
19:15 La force du destin
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:40 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Growing Pains
21:10 On the Wheel (Documentary)
22:00 News in English
22:20 Robbery Under Arms

RADIO JORDAN

85.5 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 7411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Pop Session
11:30 In Concert
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Talk
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 123 KHz

07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Wives of the Great Composers 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial Review 08:00 World News 08:30 24 Hours: News Summary 08:35 Cantabile 08:45 Letter from America 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Choirs of Britain 10:00 World News 10:30 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From Our Own Correspondent 10:50 Wavegood 10:50 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 The Pleasure of the Word 12:30 World News 12:30 British Press Review 12:15 Through My Window 12:45 Visions of Humanism 13:00 News Summary: Short Story 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:00 It's Your World 14:55 News About Britain 15:00 News Summary: Play of the Week: Joseph Andrews 15:15 Prompt 15:30 Play of the Week: Intimate Exchanges 16:00 World News 16:00 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Mirrored in Music 16:45 The Sandy Jones Request Show 17:30 Detective 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 International Rectal 19:00 World News 19:00 Comment 19:15 Open Door 19:45 Letter from America 20:00 World News 20:00 Reflections 20:15 Nigerian 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsweek 21:30 Brain of Britain 1987 22:15 The Making of an Opera 02:15 Letter from America 02:30 Former Flashpoints

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 1174, 11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Horizons 10:30 Studio One 10:40 News 10:50 Encounter 10:50 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Critic's Choice 20:30 Issues in the News 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Sunday Report 22:30 Music USA Standards 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 The Concert Hall 24:00 News 24:10 New Horizons and New Products 24:30 Studio One

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Samer Obeidat and Jean Al Sabah at the Housing Bank Gallery.

* An exhibition of children's paintings and educational techniques at the University of Jordan's model school.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 644371
American Centre Library 641520
British Council 6361478
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 639777
Turkish Cultural Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 6671816
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

* "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
* Follies Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also museum from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 16th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
* Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
* Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mustashab, Jabal Lweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Jabal Lweibdeh Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817534.

Churches

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 624590.
Jabal Amman of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Tel. 624590.
Jabal Lweibdeh, Tel. 624590.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 661757.
Terresanta Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 624590.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational) Tel. 624590.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Tel. 624590.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Tel. 678906.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 624590.
Armenian Apostolic Church Tel. 624590.
Baptist School in Shmishat, Tel. 67534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7:00 p.m. English Service: Sunday 9:00 p.m. Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Rev. N. Samir, Tel. 811295.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights (Terminal 1)
10:00 Amman (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:25 Jeddah (RJ)
11:00 Kuwait (RJ)
11:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:30 Cairo, Amman (RJ)
12:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:40 Athens (RJ)
13:05 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:05 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
19:35 London, Geneva (RJ)
20:00 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
20:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
22:00 Baghdad (RJ)

Other flights (Terminal 2)

10:00 Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
12:45 Kuwait (LH)
13:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
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Home news

43 arrested in drug smuggling last month

AMMAN (Petra) — The Anti-Narcotics Squad in Jordan last month seized 310 kilograms of hashish and an unspecified amount of heroin and other drugs, with a street value of JD 300,000, Col. Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the Anti-Narcotics Department, announced here Saturday.

He told a press conference that altogether 43 persons involved in the drug smuggling have been arrested, including 24 non-Jordanians.

The Anti-Narcotics Department had been tipped off about most of this smuggling, including those involved in the process of smuggling drugs into the Kingdom and from here smuggling them into other Arab countries, Col. Qaisi pointed out. "We received initial information about gang involved in these operations and we placed the gang's members under strict surveillance before we made our move," Col. Qaisi added.

He said that last year one of the primary drug pushers in Jordan was arrested. Police found 2.5 kilograms of hashish in his possession at the time.

Strict surveillance of the rest of his group was maintained, until the group was caught red-handed. The police found that the group had 1,620 grammes of hashish upon their arrest last month, and also discovered that the group leader had bought land outside Amman and built a home as a drug smuggling centre. The drugs were seized and the members of the group have been apprehended, he said.

One of the other cases Col. Qaisi said involved a man who was found to have 70 kilograms of hashish in his possession, hidden at his home on Jabal Nazif. This man, along with six other accomplices, were arrested. Investigations proved that they were involved in drug smuggling and trafficking operations, Col. Qaisi added.

He said that police dogs have been used and continue to be used in detecting drugs. Recently, police dogs detected drugs concealed in a suitcase at Queen Alia International Airport. He said that his department plans to expand the use of police dogs to sniff out drugs at border posts around the Kingdom.

Jordan proposes April 7 as int'l smoke-free day

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan on Saturday stressed the necessity of supporting the work of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to achieve the "Health for All by the Year 2000" goal.

Dr. Hani Oweis, director of the International Health Department at the Health Ministry and deputy head of the Jordanian delegation to the World Health Assembly (WHA) meetings in Geneva, delivered the address for Jordan. He urged all member countries to honour their commitments to the WHO to enable it perform its duties.

Dr. Oweis also called on the WHO to offer health support for Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories who he said are suffering bad health conditions under the Israeli occupation.

He also called for efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, which is bringing tragedy to the people of both countries.

Meanwhile, the executive bureau of the Arab Health Ministers' Council submitted a Jordanian-sponsored draft resolution to the WHA, asking member states to designate April 7 each year as "a day free of smoking." During that day, all governments would ban the selling of cigarettes in their countries in an attempt to convince smokers to stop smoking.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, who is the WHA president for the current term, is heading Jordan's delegation to the WHA current meetings in Geneva.

German church group meets with Qatanani

AMMAN (Petra) — The situation in the occupied Arab territories, and Israel's continued inhuman practices there, were reviewed Saturday at a meeting that grouped Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and a delegation representing youth organisations affiliated with West Germany's Protestant churches.

Dr. Qatanani outlined the development of the Arab-Israeli conflict and pointed to Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian land since 1948, which, he said, created a humanitarian problem which ought to be addressed by the international community.

The Palestinian people continue to suffer under Israeli rule or through expulsion from their lands, Dr. Qatanani said.

He also outlined efforts exerted by Jordan, in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for providing relief supplies to the refugees for improving their living conditions in the camps.

Dr. Qatanani also spoke about Israel's aggressive policies and violations of human rights and seizure of Arab land for building settlements. He also emphasised the illegal actions of Israeli extremists and their desecration of Islamic and Christian holy places.

Dr. Qatanani spoke in detail about the Jordanian-sponsored five-year economic and social development plan for the occupied territories in order to alleviate the suffering of the Arab population under Israeli rule and maintain resistance to Israeli actions and occupation.

The visit was organised by the Anglican church in Amman.

Jordan exhibits traditional crafts at Florence fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan took part in an exhibition of traditional crafts held in the Italian city of Florence between April 24 and May 3.

Jordan's representative was Mr. Ghassan Al Rifani who took part in seminars during which he spoke about Jordanian traditional crafts and their production by local communities in Jordan.

He also reviewed the history of traditional crafts in the country and their historic background. Jordan was among 31 nations taking part in the exhibition at which it displayed samples of its traditional crafts.

Ministry outlines plans to support cereal prices

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture Salem Al Lawzi has stressed the significance of the government's decision to purchase cereals from farmers at competitive prices.

Dr. Lawzi said the decision reflects the government's interest in and concern over supporting farmers and encouraging investment in agricultural products.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Lawzi said the government has offered cereal farmers prices that compare well with international prices, and in some cases, are higher than international prices.

According to the government's decision, a tonne of wheat will be purchased at JD 144, while a tonne of barley will be purchased at JD 90; a tonne of lentils at JD 180 and a tonne of chick-peas at JD 170.

In its attempts to encourage the production of cereals and in implementation of the Ministry of Agriculture's policy on crop rotation, the government has also decided to purchase a tonne of

maize at JD 80. The result of this support, Dr. Lawzi said, is increased production of cereals in the coming years. These price supports will encourage work already started in exploiting the southern and eastern parts of Jordan for cereals production.

To facilitate the purchase of cereals from farmers, a special committee, headed by Dr. Lawzi, and grouping representatives of the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation (JCO), Ministry of Supply and Ministry of Agriculture, has been formed.

Dr. Lawzi added that groups have been formed to purchase cereals from farmers. These groups are being based in the grain silos premises in Juwaida and began receiving cereal crops from farmers on Saturday.

Upon completion of work by these groups, an audit committee will be formed to audit all purchasing transactions. The audit committee will comprise representatives for the Ministries of Supply and Agriculture, and the JCO and the Audit Bureau.



Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Ahmad Al Tal Saturday addresses representatives from eight Arab countries on technical education.

Community colleges have lax standards — official

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Ahmad Al Tal Saturday criticised the standard of community or intermediate colleges.

He charged that their graduates are turned out with poor training and that the teachers tend to give students higher marks than they actually deserve.

Dr. Tal said that the intermediate or community colleges have been admitting large numbers of students who should not be eligible for post-school studies. He said that these colleges lack proper guidance services for their students.

He said that these colleges turned out large numbers of graduates, thus causing a serious imbalance between demand and supply of college graduates.

Dr. Tal, who was addressing a meeting grouping representatives of eight different Arab countries gathered to discuss means of promoting technical education, said that the Ministry of Higher Education in Jordan has adopted a number of measures to rectify this situation and solve the

problem.

He said that Jordan is keen on promoting technical education, regarding it as an important branch of education, but he added that it should be proper training that will serve the community.

Dr. Ghanem Hassawi, president of the Federation of Arab Technical Education, addressed the meeting, outlining the federation's activities and programmes since its establishment in 1980. The federation has dispatched experts to different Arab countries for the sake of helping to develop technical education, he said.

He said that this training course is designed to raise the skill and efficiency of the participants who are leaders of technical education in their countries.

Delegates from Jordan, Algeria, Somalia, Iraq, Qatar, Libya, North and South Yemen are taking part in the 12-day meeting which has been organised in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Madaba nears completion of reforestation project

MADABA (Petra) — The department of agriculture in Madaba has completed 75 per cent of the work on a project for developing hilly regions in various districts around the city, department director Abdul Majid Al Bashabshe said here Saturday.

He said that the project, which is included in the Ministry of Agriculture's five year plan, entails reclaiming 2,000 dunums during this year, before planting them with trees. The development plan, he said, provides for building 2,000 square metres of retaining walls at the cost of JD 2,400, drilling 30,000 artesian wells, constructing water reservoirs at the cost of JD 3,000, and planting 1,250 dunums with fruit tree saplings at the cost of JD 5,000 and forest tree saplings surrounded by barbed wire fencing at a cost of JD 18,250, Mr. Bashabshe added.

He said that his department has plans to plant a total of 700,000 tree saplings to preserve the soil and stop soil erosion. The plan will also help stem desertification and develop plots of land around

tourist and archaeological areas at the cost of JD 8,700.

Referring to pasture land, Mr. Bashabshe said that his department has prepared 2,000 dunums of land and sown seeds for shrubs at the cost of JD 20,000 in a bid to encourage cattle and stock breeding, and to increase meat production.

The Department of Agriculture in Madaba has set up a control tower in Siyagha, west of here, at the cost of JD 5,000 and also installed JD 5,000 worth of wireless equipment and purchased motorcycles and hired workers to deal with fires, Mr. Bashabshe pointed out.

He said that the department has made arrangements for the production of 200,000 olive saplings at the cost of JD 36,294, built agricultural roads and carried out maintenance work, all at the cost of JD 1,900.

According to Mr. Bashabshe, improved seeds for wheat, produced at different nurseries, have been distributed to farmers and wheat growers.

Aqaba marine projects attract private funds

AQABA (Petra) — A number of projects in Aqaba region, which were promoted through a conference in Kuwait on April 26, have succeeded in attracting capital from Jordanian expatriates and other sources, according to Mr. Bassam Qaqish, president of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA).

Mr. Qaqish said that these projects include a maritime centre which would provide tourist, recreational and cultural facilities to enable visitors to familiarise themselves with the sea environment, including the coral reefs and fish, and to offer facilities for university students to conduct research work.

The centre, he said, will have an underwater tube-shaped glass hall which will enable divers to watch the wealth of fish and coral reefs under the sea and a museum displaying different types of sea life in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea. The centre will also include lecture halls, art galleries, a library, and other essential facilities.

The centre is to be set up on a 14 dunum piece of land on the southern coast of Aqaba at an estimated cost of JD 1.5 million. Another project that was won back at the Kuwait conference, Mr. Qaqish added, was the marine park which involves setting up a recreational sea sport centre that will attract people of all ages.

This marine park, he said, would include a circular pool of 200 square metres in area, complete with equipment and facilities for water games, an artificial children's lake no less than 10,000 dunums in area, with tiny islands

provided with boats. There will also be cafes, restaurants, playgrounds and car parks, in addition to a first aid centre, Mr. Qaqish added. This centre will be set up near the marine centre on 75 dunums of land overlooking the sea and will cost JD 1 million, Mr. Qaqish said.

Another project presented to the conference was the Sultan Qaboos estate which would contain holiday cottages and chalets to be sold to whoever wishes to buy them for the sake of encouraging the tourism industry in the Kingdom. This housing estate would include 425 housing units, a shopping centre, a sports unit, telephone, electricity, water, postal and other essential services. The housing estate is to be set up on 630 dunums of land in the northern sector of the southern coast of Aqaba.

This project which will be implemented in three stages is expected to cost JD 4.85 million.

Mr. Qaqish said that ARA has made plans for setting up a tourist village, including a club. It will stand on 264 dunums of land of which 64 will overlook the sea. The project, Mr. Qaqish continued, will cost approximately JD 2.3 million. Mr. Qaqish also said that the tourist zone in Aqaba will have an international standard hotel set up on 7,500 square metres with 250 beds with swimming pools, playgrounds, parks, nightclubs and other facilities.

This project, he said, will be set up at the southern tip of the tourist zone at the cost of JD 7.3 million.

Crown Prince calls for effort of whole society on education

AMMAN (Petra) — The educational process in the Kingdom should not remain the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Education, but other institutions, and social and public organisations, should be involved, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said here.

He said that coordination among these institutions should be made and efforts pooled so that the educational process can be promoted.

Prince Hassan was addressing the central working committee involved in overhauling the educational process at its first meeting held on Thursday.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Education, followed tours made by Prince Hassan to different governorates during which he discussed the educational system with educators, heads of education departments and teachers.

Prince Hassan said that the country must create a conducive environment for the growth of the young generation through cooperation among social centres, educational institutions and the Ministry of Education, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra reported Saturday.

The Crown Prince said the ministries of education, health, youth, agriculture and awqaf should launch meaningful cooperation and dialogue to promote the educational process.

Addressing the meeting later was Minister of Education Thaqan Hindawi who said that the government, through the Council of Higher Education, has embarked on a number of measures to reassess the educational system in the country.

The Prime Ministry set up a technical committee which drew up a report on education in the Kingdom, examining its existing

strategies and outlining its objectives and aspirations, Mr. Hindawi noted. He said that the report was revised by the Council of Higher Education with the participation of Prince Hassan.

But, he added, Prince Hassan suggested that more discussion of the educational system be conducted with the involvement of the education sector, before a general conference on education be held to submit recommendations. For this reason, the minister pointed out, this central committee has been formed to supervise this important task and to help also in the process of introducing new syllabuses and textbooks.

Ministry of Education's Secretary General Radi Al Waqfi addressed the meeting, reviewing the educational process in the Kingdom and also referring to the work and the responsibility of the working team.

He said that the central working committee groups eight senior officials from the Ministry of Education, and representatives from the ministries of health, agriculture, planning, higher education, youth, labour and social development, information, together with the Armed Forces, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

He said this central working committee will act to promote the elements and the objectives of the educational process in light of



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attends the first meeting of the central education committee, set up to overhaul Jordan's education system.

Prince Hassan's directives and within the framework of the Council of Higher Education's policies. Their task will involve examining the following subjects: syllabuses, school textbooks, libraries, radio and television shows, educational supervision, supervising the work of school administration and teachers, general examinations, educational activities, school buildings and vocational training.

The central working committee, Dr. Waqfi said, will be entrusted with preparing an organisational plan for its members and plans for the affiliated committees working in the fields. This central working committee will prepare papers on the work of all teams in the field and will coordinate the work.

The outcome of the work of these teams and a report from the central working committee will all be submitted to the general national conference on education which will be organised by the Ministry of Education, Dr. Waqfi

noted. He said that the conference will be held before beginning of the 1987-1988 scholastic year.

The central working committee, Dr. Waqfi pointed out, will set up smaller working teams to go out into the field. These teams, he said, will group representatives of the sectors of agriculture, industry, and the public sector in each area and will be in charge of discussing specialised committees' recommendations and submitting proposals.

According to Dr. Waqfi, specialised committees will also be formed grouping senior officials from the Ministry of Education, UNRWA and private schools, and groups of teachers and students in each governorate. The committee, which includes groups of supervisors, men and women teachers will study each subject matter at all the school levels. The central working committee will shortly hold meetings to discuss the different subjects on its agenda.

2nd bone marrow transplant patient 'born again'

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "I feel as if I am born again," said Mohammad Abu El Hejja describing the way he felt a day after he underwent the second, successful bone marrow transplant in the Kingdom.

"On Friday, and hours before I was operated on, I felt I was among the dead. My body was void of any energy," said the 29-year-old Jordanian in an interview with the Jordan Times on Saturday, 24 hours after the transplant.

Sitting on a comfortable light-brown chair inside the University of Jordan Hospital room number 506, Mohammad said, "I feel excellent. I just wish doctors here would allow me to drink more quantities of juice."

Mohammad is a teacher of mathematics in one of the Irbid Governorate schools.

The patient's brother, Faisal 32, who was the bone marrow donor to this transplant and was resting in room number 504, urged his doctor to discharge him from hospital on Saturday.

Faisal donated to his brother 800 millimetres of bone marrow, which is expected to be reproduced inside his body in a week's time.

"I don't feel fatigue. In fact, I have to leave today as there are numerous duties awaiting me," said Faisal, a father of two boys and a girl.

Wearing a special disposable medical gown, gloves, mask, and special foot covers, this Jordan Times reporter also visited Ali Harb, whose name went down in Jordan's medical records as the first patient to undergo a successful bone marrow transplant. But Ali's feeling was different than those shared by his neighbours who were resting in room numbers 504 and 506.

"Although I know that my health condition is improving day after day, I feel exhausted," said the 26-year-old patient who suffered from Hodgkin's Disease, a disease characterised by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver and spleen and by progressive anaemia.

Ali's mother, an elderly lady who was sitting on a chair outside her son's room, said he was recuperating. "God willing, Ali will regain his strength," said his mother.

Hematologist Dr. Abdullah Oweidi Al Abadi, who headed a team of eight surgeons during both transplants, maintained that it was still too early to predict the success of both operations.

"By next Thursday, Ali should be showing early signs of improvement," said Dr. Abadi. He conceded that by then "we'll know the success rates of the first operation," which took place on April 27.

"In two weeks from today, we could also decide on the success of Mohammad's transplant," explained the doctor. Early signs of recovery include the appearance

of some of the needed blood cells.

The success rate for such operations world-wide is put between 45 to 75 per cent. The bright side to this type of transplant is that if it succeeds, it guarantees a life-time cure for the patient.

If bone marrow transplant patients are not covered by any medical insurance, such an operation would cost them here around JD 3,000. According to reports on similar operations, the cost is between \$60,000 to \$100,000 in the U.S. and between \$30,000 to \$45,000 throughout Europe.

In the meantime, both transplant patients are undergoing strict medical post-surgery care at the University Hospital.

According to reports on similar operations performed throughout the world, post-operation care given to bone marrow transplant patients is the main and most decisive factor for the surgery's success.

These reports have cited mouth infections, stomach and intestinal ulcers, external and internal bleeding and the body's rejection of transplanted marrow as major problems which might follow such operations.

Utmost medical care has to be given to these patients including medications, antibiotics and blood transfusions, and white blood cell platelets. These platelets are given to the patient on a daily basis.

Isolated wards needed

Some medical observers say that the University of Jordan Hospital has one of the best laboratory facilities and technical as well as medical support for such types of transplants.

But some doctors there concede that the absence of a special isolated ward for the recovery of bone marrow transplants hinders their ability to undertake larger scale operations.

The international standards for these types of isolated wards are isolated wards, air filters and the other necessary sterile conditions suitable for the recovery of bone marrow transplant patients whose body immunity against infections and bacteria is usually very low during the post-surgery period.

The set-up of such a ward would cost up to JD 120,000. Sources at the hospital say that the institution's budget does not allow for such an expansion in the near future.

Until such an isolated ward is set up, the two patients and any future bone marrow transplant patients will receive their follow-up care in ordinary rooms whose doors are kept closed at all times. Anyone planning to enter these rooms has to wear disposable medical garments.

Asked whether such rooms as the patients are staying in, would hinder their recovery, Dr. Abadi explained that in terms of the number of deaths from such operations, the availability of a spe-

cial isolated ward and an ordinary one does not make a difference.

But, the difference between these two types of wards on the bone marrow patients is in terms of the severity of the infections they are likely to catch.

"The conditions of our present recovery wards are acceptable but not ideal," said Dr. Abadi. He said that one of the well-known hospitals for this kind of surgery in the U.S. has such specialised isolated wards, but only nine out of the 21 rooms in it had the proper international standard of sterile conditions. "The conditions of the other non-isolated rooms are very similar to ours at this hospital," he added.

The lack of such wards at the hospital will not bend the enthusiasm of Jordanian doctors for performing such operations. "We will continue to do these transplants whenever I feel they are needed," said Dr. Abadi.

With the given facilities, Dr. Abadi is confident the hospital can handle between 10 to 1 bone marrow transplants a year. But, if such a ward for bone marrow transplants is built, Dr. Abadi is confident the university could handle 50 cases a year.

Friends of Children Club to hold book and craft fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Friends of Children Club will organise a children's books and crafts fair at the club's centre in Jabal Luweibeh park from May 13 to 18 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The opening ceremony will be held on May 12, and the next day the fair will be open to the public, according to a club's press release issued Saturday.

It said that the fair will display a selection of English and Arabic language children's books, materials for arts, crafts and hobbies,

shows of famous children's film and cartoons, a demonstration of techniques for making crafts, an exhibition of hand-made craft and two puppet plays presented by the Friends of Children Club puppet group.

The Friends of Children Club was established in 1975 with the purpose of developing children's skills, capabilities, and physical and mental powers through holding of various cultural, artistic, and recreational programmes which involve children, their parents and educators.

Murphy begins talks in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

Sheikh Sabah told reporters the talks, involving members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), were held "in the light of recent developments affecting our countries."

Arab affairs in general were also discussed, he said.

Diplomats said the talks were likely to have covered the Murphy visit.

"I would imagine the attack figured highly in discussion. This must give concern," one diplomat said, referring to a seaborne rocket and machine-gun assault on a Soviet ship in the middle of the Gulf last Wednesday.

Two Iranian gunboats attacked the Soviet freighter, the Ivan Koroteyev, in an apparent warning to Kuwait that Tehran will not halt attacks on neutral shipping whatever flag they fly.

The freighter was the first Soviet vessel attacked in the Gulf since the war broke out.

The official Soviet TASS news agency condemned the attack as an "act of piracy."

Mr. Murphy said Saturday that Washington does not seek to provoke Iran by helping Kuwait protect its ships from Iranian attack.

He said Washington seeks to end the Iran-Iraq war, but is also discussing with the Kuwaitis moves to register their tankers in the United States.

tour that will include Iraq.

"With the flag comes protection," he said, referring to U.S. warships that now patrol the Gulf and escort American ships.

But he stressed that the U.S. move to aid Kuwait "is not an act of belligerence or provocation" on the part of the United States.

Mr. Murphy declined to say what action would be taken if U.S.-flag vessel or one escorted by U.S. warships was attacked by the Iranians.

"There's no way that the United States could refuse to register ships under the American flag provided certain conditions are met in terms of ownership a safety standards," Mr. Murphy said.

"We're not interested in seeing to escalate tension in the Gulf."

Mr. Murphy deplored the Iran-Iraq war and said the conflict "has gone on far too long."

He pledged: "We'll do what we can to bring an end to the war quickly, with no victor or vanquished."

But he conceded there is "no easy way" to end the fighting. Referring to secret U.S. arms shipments to Iran, Mr. Murphy said: "We've done what we can over the last several years to affect the supply of arms to Iran. The one party reluctant to enter into a ceasefire."

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

How to face the coming inflation

THERE is no doubt that inflation is bad. It is a curse that plagues the inflicted economy of any country, eats up the fruits of its growth and development, and shakes its economic stability. We in Jordan suffered bitterly from inflation for at least eight years as of mid seventies.

However disinflation, or the absolute absence of inflation, brings its own problems, which are as bad as those of inflation itself. Prominent among those problems are stagnation, retreat of the business activity — especially in companies of high fixed costs — the difficulties faced by debtors, and consequently by banks who become unable to recover their loans.

A 10 per cent inflation rate became a fact of life for some time. Architects of monetary and financial policies at that time used to blame imported inflation, despite the fact that local goods and services were ahead of imports on the curve of price rises.

Disinflation is quite a new phenomenon that we experienced in 1986. We noticed its negative impact on banks, corporations, liquidity, and public finance. We should not of course go to the extreme of cherishing the inflation of the seventies as a lesser level.

We need only to assert that contraction and disinflation could be as harmful as inflation. A healthy state of affairs would be a moderate inflation of say three per cent, and an annual increase in money supply of six to nine per cent.

Inflation or the expectation of higher inflation leads to special types of economic and investment behaviour in order to protect wealth from depreciation. Under these circumstances, people naturally prefer fixed productive assets.

By contrast, disinflation or the expectation of lower inflation rate leads to a different type of economic and investment behaviour in order to secure income. Under these circumstances people prefer liquidity and financial assets.

A moderate rate of inflation is expected in the near future. International and domestic indicators point towards this. We therefore expect change in the people's expectations and perceptions: less preference for liquidity, and greater incentives to invest in real estate, industry and agriculture, as long as time permits.

On the international scene we find that long term interest rate on the dollar has started to climb for two months now. Money supply

in all industrialised countries is rising at very high rates, especially in the United States. The price of gold is soaring sharply and persistently. All these indicators point to a global inflation on the advance.

At the domestic scene we notice that the Central Bank is following a policy of expansion, the compulsory cash reserves required from commercial banks are close to their minimum point. The Bank is offering loans and refinancing funds at cheap prices and easy terms.

On the other hand the Ministry of Finance is also riding on an expansionary path, especially when it comes to higher public expenditure without a corresponding increase in revenue collection, which has to be accommodated by an increase in the issuance of more money.

Since inflation is creeping slowly and gradually, we have enough time to adjust our positions and take the necessary measures which would enable us to benefit from the coming inflation. Opportunities don't wait long.

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Election fever gripping town

THERE has not been a Ramadan as lively as this in years. Election fever is gripping town. And everybody seems to be happy either talking or actually doing something about his or his cousin's or his close friend's candidacy for the impending parliamentary elections.

Not everybody is of course interested. But, it is safe to assume that the vast majority of the population is gearing up for a special occasion. Take, for instance, those dignitaries and political activists and others whom we normally see in all kinds of places; they are not to be spotted so easily any more. They are all busy collecting Daftar Al'Aaleh (civil registration cards, without which no citizen can register for voting) or meeting with their fellow candidates — and their close associates — to map out their election strategy.

We are not talking about any individual or group in particular. We mean the lot. By election time, which incidentally nobody knows except perhaps His Majesty the King, there will probably be more candidates for the poorly-paid member-of-parliament job than there are voters. But that is just another interesting social phenomenon that has to be studied and analysed.

The important thing in all of this is that election fever is gripping town, and that this is a very healthy sign. It is a sign that our people want to be involved and that we are ready to exercise our legal and political rights in choosing our representatives to parliament.

Jordanians might be thought of or understood to be novices in electioneering and in practising their democratic rights, but they are not. The Kingdom boasts of experiencing one of the earliest democracies in the region; furthermore, Jordan does not lack the right conditions to resume a democratic rule that is best suited to its political and socio-economic development and national interest.

So, it is true that the dignitaries, political activists and others, who are today lobbying for their candidacy or that of their relatives and friends, are not all political leaders and the right stuff for members of parliament. But, those people have every right to enthuse, lobby and fight for candidacy and election in the impending parliamentary polls. Their cause, regardless of whether it is personal, tribal or political, should deserve from us every backing and encouragement.

Electioneering is bound to contribute to democracy and further stability in our country. And there is no question that it also will be an unforgettable lesson for our true and genuine nationhood.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Israeli aggression mounts

ISRAEL yesterday launched yet another aggression on the Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon. The raids and the shelling caused the death of a fresh number of dead and injured. The raids indicate that Israel aims at pursuing its goal in South Lebanon, killing Palestinians and other innocent civilians while the world community continues to keep a blind eye to such atrocities. This Israeli criminal act is being practised on the Arabs in a bid to impose Israel's hegemony on South Lebanon and to force the Arab population to succumb to force and capitulate. The crime committed by Israel against the Arab population in the South would not be the last, but it will definitely fail to stifle the spirit of resistance or weaken the steadfastness of the Arab people. Such criminal actions can not and will not enable Israel to impose its domination on the Arab territory. The international community is called on to take a firm stand and action to Israel's acts of aggression. The Lebanese government is now aiming to achieve that end through the help of the Security Council. Therefore, any obstruction of the Security Council's decisions would be considered as a cowardly act directed against all values and principles in which the international community believes.

Al Dustour: Calling for Arab action

ISRAEL'S barbaric acts of aggression on South Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps reflect to the world the true image of the Jewish state which has become blinded by arrogance and military superiority feeling. By force the Israeli leaders are bent to achieve the dreams and the objectives of the Zionist movement, namely subduing the Arabs by force of arms. This is the clear message of the genocide war Israel is now launching on South Lebanon and the Palestinian refugees living there. The repeated raids on South Lebanon totally blow up all false pretences by Israel and all claims about its desire to live in peace with its Arab neighbours. The Israelis are escalating their repressive measures against the Arab population in South Lebanon and people under their role at a time when talk about peace and holding an international conference goes on by the world community which is keen on re-establishing security in the Middle East region. It is clear that the Israeli leaders are bent on implementing a strategy of intimidating the Arab population and forcing them to succumb to force and terrorism, and accept Israel's terms. This situation calls for a concerted Arab move to thwart Israel's objectives and plans.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran escalates war

IRAN is nowadays busily launching propaganda campaigns against the Soviet Union and statements coming out from Tehran describe Moscow as being in a state of war with Iran. To back their words with deeds the Iranians have lately attacked a Soviet merchant vessel bound for Saudi Arabia. It seems that Tehran is not satisfied with the prolonged war with Iraq, its neighbour to the west, but would be paving the way for another war against the Soviet neighbour to the north. The shelling of the Soviet ship was an obvious challenge to Moscow. It is part of Iran's desire to escalate the conflict in the Gulf in areas other than the Iraqi-Iranian front where the Iranian forces have been suffering one defeat after another. Ever since the new regime came to power in Tehran, programmes have been laid for sabotage and hostility against the neighbours of the country. The war which started against Iraq is being intensified and world peace is being endangered.

Israel gains from, and sows, U.S.-Soviet disputes

By Claudia Wright

WASHINGTON — The movement of the two superpowers toward a deal to eliminate intermediate-range and short-range nuclear missiles will soon produce the moment of truth for Reagan administration in the Middle East, as well as in Europe.

The negotiations have become a test of whether the U.S. government really wants to strike an agreement with the Soviets to control nuclear arms on any terms at all. And because an agreement to reduce these weapons directly affects the military balance in the Middle East, what happens next will be a test of whether there is hope for a Middle East peace settlement on any other terms than those dictated by Israel.

Israel's privileged place in U.S. strategy has always depended on maximum confrontation and antagonism between Moscow and Washington. But Soviet concessions and American flexibility can eliminate that advantage, and make the strategic tie between U.S. and Israel obsolete — an obstacle to further superpower agreements on regional issues and non-nuclear military forces. The Arabs should be watching closely to see how far the Israelis and their American allies go in trying to frustrate a superpower agreement in the days ahead.

There is considerable irony in the present situation. After the Reykjavik summit between Pres-

ident Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, the Soviets appeared to have concluded there was no prospect of an agreement with the Americans, until the Reagan administration is re-placed in 1989.

In November, however, the Iranagate scandal became known. In six months this has precipitated the political collapse of the Reagan administration, and the deep alienation of public support for the president himself.

To relieve domestic pressure and to give the Republican Party a chance of holding on to the presidency, U.S. officials have revived the prospect of reaching an arms agreement. These circumstances have encouraged the Soviets to make fresh concessions.

But what has transformed the American negotiating position is the Iranagate scandal. And that disaster is a direct result of Israel's success in penetrating the highest levels of the administration, to engage U.S. officials in a billion-dollar conspiracy to smuggle arms to Iran. It is that Israeli conspiracy which has reduced the U.S. government to the low point where it is now prepared to bargain away the strategic position Israel and the Israeli defence industry count on.

The American consensus now clearly favours a deal with Moscow. Experienced American conservatives like former Secretary

of Defence James Schlesinger, agree that the current Soviet proposals represent the terms which the U.S. and its NATO allies have been demanding Moscow agree to since 1977. According to Schlesinger, it is now time "we learn to say yes."

In the past, at decisive moments in superpower negotiations, the Israelis have acted to create new tensions and forestall agreement. The launching of Israel's war in June of 1967 immediately preceded the meeting known as the Glassboro summit between President Johnson and Soviet Premier Kosygin. The Israeli attack on Tunis in October 1985 came just before the first Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Geneva. But if the timing of incidents like these can be thought coincidental, the pattern of opposition to U.S.-Soviet agreements by Israel's allies in Washington cannot be doubted. These allies have included Richard Perle and Fred Ikle (pronounced ee-klay) at the Defence Department, Lawrence Eagleburger at State, and William Casey at the CIA.

It is now all but forgotten in Washington that at the start of its existence, Israel enjoyed greater Soviet than American support at the United Nations, and that U.S. officials believed the Israeli government to be pro-Communist in sympathy, and riddled with KGB spies. Israeli policymakers still have divisions over the Soviet Union, primarily over terms for increasing the emigration of Soviet Jews.

But Israel has evolved into a position today where its strategic interest depend on preventing superpower agreement on any major issue of substance. Israel's defence and arms industries supply the clandestine insurgencies which the U.S. supports against pro-Soviet governments — in Angola, for example, and Nicaragua. Israel is one of the co-signatories of the Strategic Defence Initiative, with the expectation that the contracts already awarded by the Pentagon will eventually turn into lucrative exports for Israel. Israel's lobbyists in the U.S. Congress now emphasise Israel's need to establish its eligibility for funds, technology and weapons systems that until now have been reserved for the NATO allies. The Israelis claim they should be supplied by the U.S. with new air and anti-submarine weapons in order to operate against the Soviet navy in the Eastern Mediterranean. Without the growth in U.S. military spending, there would not be the money to support the investment that is keeping Israel's arms industry from closing down. And without unmitigated hostility between Washington and Moscow, the U.S. defence budget would be cut, just as the foreign aid budget has already been reduced,

and Israel would face insuperable economic difficulties.

Article 1 of the 1981 U.S.-Israel memorandum on strategic cooperation describes how this elaborate framework of U.S. assistance to Israel "is designed against the threat to peace and security of the region caused by the Soviet Union or Soviet controlled forces ... introduced into the region."

One of the traditional justifications in U.S. plans to provide Israel enough arms to match all the Arab armed forces combined is this presumption that the alleged Arab threat to Israel is either caused by the Soviet Union, or inspired and controlled from Moscow.

This is also the current justification for the U.S. refusal to countenance a role for the Soviet Union in an international conference for Arab-Israeli negotiations. It is in Israel's interest to depict the Soviet threat as the principal problem in the Middle East, and to cast Israel as the only reliable U.S. ally in case of world war between the two superpowers, or of Soviet-inspired Middle Eastern war.

Nothing the Arabs themselves have been able to say or do in forty years has overturned the argument in Washington. But U.S. government views have changed in response to direct Soviet threats, as at the time of

the 1973 Ramadan War or the 1982 invasion of Lebanon; or to Soviet negotiating offers on nuclear arms and political détente. Arms control and regional détente are linked because radical reductions of nuclear missiles in the Central-European theatre encourage competition for non-nuclear military advantages on the periphery of the Soviet Union. The oilfields and sea lanes of the Arabian Peninsula are important in the war plans of both superpowers — they become more so when U.S. and Soviet officials must calculate how to defend or prevail in a global war waged with non-nuclear weapons.

When the two superpowers draw closer to each other to reduce conflict and competition in the Middle East, Israel's military establishment and its industrial base face dire peril. To preempt such a threat, they have prevailed on their U.S. allies to sustain superpower conflict at the strategic and at the regional level. But the cost has been economic exhaustion for both Washington and Moscow. It remains to be seen whether the Reagan administration, undermined by a political scandal of Israel's making, will continue to do Israel's bidding when confronted at the negotiating table by an offer the U.S. had tabled itself only a few months ago — Arab-News, Jeddah.

Aquino popularity is key factor in congressional elections

By Miguel C. Suarez
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Corazon Aquino's popularity is emerging as a decisive factor in Monday's congressional elections, despite the distractions of coup attempts, insurgencies and a restive labour movement.

Voters will elect 24 senators and 200 members of the house representatives, restoring a bicameral system the deposed President Ferdinand E. Marcos abolished in 1972.

As election day approaches, Mrs. Aquino herself dominates candidates' strategies. Administration candidates call themselves "Cory's choice." Others compete for her endorsement.

Opposition hopefuls, many of them encumbered by their association with Marcos, avoid direct attacks on Mrs. Aquino. Even those who were among her most strident critics speak primarily of the need for a strong but loyal opposition.

Officials anticipate a rise in violence as the election approaches. But they all agree that despite nearly 40 killings so far, the balloting could be the least bloody in a country noted for the violence of its elections since it became independent from the United States in 1946.

"The level of violence will probably be lower than in 1984 or 1986," Christian Monsod, head of the private election watchdog body NAMFREL, said in a television interview.

"There is a lot more maturity. The campaigning is generally issue-oriented," he said. He added that in most regions, politicians with decades-old rivalries have pledged not to resort to violence.

More than 80 candidates are vying for the 24 senate seats, to be elected by voters nationwide. Nearly 2,000 more are competing for the lower house, whose members will be elected by district.

The field includes leftist candidates led by Bernabe Buscayno, a former top Communist guerrilla leader who is running for the senate under the Partido Ng Bayan, or People's Party. At least three other former Communist rebels and three former Muslim rebels are among candidates for the senate and lower house.

The outlawed Communist Party cannot run its own candidates and Muslim rebels are refusing to participate in the elections. But

both rebel groups are likely to campaign for individual candidates in some areas.

The elections are the last step in the restoration of democracy here following the February 1986 "people power revolution" that swept Mrs. Aquino to office and forced Marcos into U.S. exile after 20 years in power.

Filipinos overwhelmingly ratified a new constitution in a plebiscite last February. That vote was widely considered a referendum on the popularity of the 54-year-old Mrs. Aquino.

With election day less than a week away, Mrs. Aquino has stepped up out-of-town campaigning. Voters in Manila have been subjected to media blitzes by both her "Laban" coalition candidates and those of the opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy. Laban means "fight" or "struggle" in the Tagalog language, and is also an acronym for Lakas Ng Bayan, roughly translatable as people power.

Spending is heavy on both sides — radio and television ads have barraged the airwaves and posters appear on virtually every wall in the capital.

Cardinal James L. Sin, Manila's Roman Catholic Archbishop, is a staunch supporter of Mrs. Aquino. The opposition has accused him of using his influence to help Mrs. Aquino's candidates.

After repeated denials he was campaigning for any candidate, Sin has been appearing in recent paid television advertisements supporting 10 candidates on Mrs. Aquino's ticket.

Most observers, and even opposition candidates, agree Mrs. Aquino continues to enjoy widespread popularity and that some of it is bound to rub off on her candidates.

Even former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, a senate candidate and a harsh critic of the president, has toned down his attacks. Enrile, who heads the Grand Alliance for Democracy slate, was fired by Mrs. Aquino from the cabinet last November amid rumours of a coup.

Enrile has been saying Mrs. Aquino has "done rather well" despite the serious problems she inherited from Marcos — an economy in shambles, a poorly disciplined military and Communist and Muslim insurgencies.

Surveys show Laban winning up to 18 senate seats, with six going to the alliance, including

Enrile. Mrs. Aquino is urging Filipinos to vote a straight Laban ticket. She tells rally audiences that the ticket includes a broad range of opinions, so there is no need to support opposition candidates.

The race for the lower house is different. Even Aquino supporters acknowledge the "Cory magic" may not be able to overshadow local issues and power

bosses. Candidates for the house represent various pro-Aquino parties, the alliance, the Partido Ng Bayan (People's Party) and Marcos' old party, the New Society Movement or KBL.

Local government secretary Jaime Ferrer believes up to 70 opposition candidates may win seats in the lower house. They include some Marcos loyalists in

the northern Ilocos region, where supporters of the deposed president still wield considerable influence.

Despite rumours of Marcos' money being used to finance the KBL, there is no sign that the party has received such funds from the deposed president. Only one KBL senatorial candidate, Vic Millora, is campaigning on television.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos has identified more than 600 towns throughout the country's 7,100 islands as potential spots for election violence because of intense rivalries and the presence of rebels and private armies.

He said the military was keeping a close watch on at least 162 towns, where he said the threats were most serious.

Nur Misuari, the professor who leads Muslim rebels

By Greg Hutchinson
Reuters

JOLO, Philippines — Nur Misuari often looks more like the university professor he used to be than the warlord he is now.

Slightly built and standing five feet three inches (1.57 metres) tall in his often bare feet, he has a slight stoop that makes him appear smaller and adds to the academic image.

But these days Misuari has a dagger and pistol on his belt and with an army of 30,000 Muslim rebels at his command few doubt his ability to plunge the southern Philippines back into a bitter and bloody religious war.

His followers call him "the professor" but his opponents seem him as a "potential dictator."

Whatever the tag, Misuari is where the power sits in the long-running battle with Manila over Muslim demands for autonomy over the southern third of the country.

When talks in Manila reached an impasse the negotiators from both sides flew to Misuari's remote headquarters there in the far south Sulu islands.

The outcome of the talks could decide whether the 47-year-old one-time political science teacher turns out to be Manila's powerful friend or public enemy number one.

Analysts say failure to strike a deal would almost certainly plunge the two sides back into a separatist war as happened in the 1970s, when 50,000 people, mostly civilians lost their lives.

Misuari says he is no warmonger, but neither is he a soft touch. He turned down a government offer to head an autonomous administration covering a fraction of the 23 southern provinces the rebels claim as ancestral land, accusing Manila of trying to buy him off.

A passionate and articulate



Nur Misuari, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, warns of the possibility of renewed war with government of President Corazon Aquino.

speaker, Misuari had led the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the main Muslim rebel movement, since its founding 15 years ago, exchanging classroom power for the rule of the gun.

In an interview last week in a rebel camp outside this southern town, he told Reuters his days as political science student and professor at the University of the Philippines prepared him well for his role as guerrilla leader.

"I'm able to understand better Manila's colonialism," he said, hastening to add: "I might not be cut out for a top political job."

Born near here, south of the main southern island of Mindanao, Misuari said he was carrying on a generations-old family tradition of handing on his guerrilla skills to his six children.

He spoke with pride of his 12-year-old son, Abdul Karim,

now at school in Libya, whose "pet" was an M-16 automatic rifle.

Children armed with guns are a common sight on Jolo and Misuari said if he called for war he could count on at least 70,000, including children, to respond.

His aim, he insists, is to maintain the peace struck last September when President Corazon Aquino broke protocol and flew to Jolo to meet him.

"We don't want war. We don't want our children to be grinding stones again," he said, adding: "Unless, we're provoked."

Jolo, a town of 30,000 sharing the name of the island it administers, became a bloody battleground between soldiers and Muslim rebels in the 1970s. Large parts of it were bombed, shelled and gutted by fire.

"Tens of thousands of people were slain in their houses, in their mosques, in the streets and market places," Misuari said. "Some of the mosques where the people were massacred were turned into graveyards according to Islamic tradition," he said.

Misuari directed much of the bloody 1970s war against Manila, a country he is close to and regards as a second home. He still visits Tripoli frequently.

Perched on a bamboo stool under a makeshift canopy, Misuari, his steely black eyes burning, boasted of his people and his family's strong warrior traditions with a note that held a warning for the future. "We've never lost a fight. We've never been intimidated," he said.

Genetic engineering offers new vaccines

By Paul Treuthardt
The Associated Press

GENEVA, Switzerland — Diseases from malaria and leprosy to tooth decay are slowly yielding to genetic engineering as scientists develop new vaccines by cutting and splicing the microscopic basic elements of life.

But even existing vaccines could produce health miracles if they were used more widely in the Third World, according to scientists. Researchers told a seminar here on vaccine technology that 60,000 children still die every two days in the developing world from diseases already preventable by simple immunisations. The figure is more than the total known world death toll from AIDS to date.

As for the more advanced, genetically engineered vaccines, the development of such a product against a form of hepatitis has created, in effect, the first vaccine against cancer, scientists

say. Liver cancer develops from hepatitis and is a major killer. Work is also advancing on a vaccine against leprosy. And genetic engineering offers a future possibility of "piggybacking" vaccines against as many as 20 diseases in a single inoculation.

Even AIDS may be conquered, although it presents particular difficulties. Genetic engineering work on AIDS is in progress in many laboratories, but the disease is caused by a virus of a group against which no vaccine has ever been developed.

Together, new vaccines and wider use of existing vaccines could have dramatic effects on the world.

"Universal immunisation with the vaccines which already exist would prevent 5 million deaths per year, and at a cost which a determined world could easily afford," Sir Gustav Nossal of Australia told the recent press seminar on vaccine technology at World Health Organisation

(WHO) headquarters.

"Addition of vaccines which can be reasonably envisaged ... within the next decade would double this figure," said Nossal, of Australia's Walter and Eliza Hall Medical Research Institute. Scientists at the seminar discussed a wide range of recent developments in vaccine technology.

Leprosy has produced some 5.3 million cases worldwide, according to World Health Organisation statistics. A vaccine known as BCG has been found to have an effect against the disease, but the effect is limited. Large-scale trials are under way of a direct anti-leprosy vaccine derived from infected armadillos.

Because the armadillo is the only known animal host of the disease, a research drive has also begun on a genetically engineered vaccine. One project is to hook a synthetic vaccine to BCG.

"The prospects for having an

effective vaccine against leprosy in the not-too-distant future are extremely good, and so are the prospects for elimination of leprosy as a public health problem," said S.K. Nordeen, chief medical officer of WHO's leprosy unit.

As for malaria, the disease is present now in 102 countries. Trials of vaccines to block the malaria parasite in the first stage of its life cycle began last year in the United States. More work is needed on two other stages, which actually produce and then transmit the disease.

Various forms of diarrhoea and typhoid fever kill 5 million children each year, most of them younger than three. There is no available commercial vaccine for diarrhoeal illness yet, said Dr. N.F. Pierce, WHO research coordinator for those diseases. He added, however, that prospects are heartening.

Genetically engineered vaccines against some forms of di-

arrhoea will undergo field trials shortly, and if effective, could be combined into a single vaccine, possibly given with standard polio vaccine.

One strain of the bacillus shigella causes epidemics of a form of dysentery in Central Africa and the Indian subcontinent of "unusual severity with substantial mortality," said Pierce. Genetic engineers have developed a trial vaccine against this strain by attacking key genes to carriers such as the typhoid vaccine.

Other researchers are trying to snip the virulent genes out of shigella, to produce a live, but non-infective vaccine.

As for typhoid itself, current vaccines can have unpleasant side effects. Now being tested are new "packaging" methods for to help absorption of the vaccine, and a gene-engineered version.

An experimental oral cholera vaccine — not genetically engineered — has given 65 per cent

protection for one year in field trials involving some 60,000 people in Bangladesh. Gene-transfer processes have also been carried out to develop another form of vaccine, which is to have its first trials soon.

When vaccines in this broad area are ready, he added, they are likely to be included in WHO's basic worldwide child immunisation programme. It now covers polio, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough or pertussis, tetanus and tuberculosis.

Prof. Arie Zuckerman of the University of London told the seminar that at least 200 million people carry hepatitis-B, and 40 million will die from chronic liver diseases, including liver cancer, that can spring for it.

He noted the creation of genetically engineered hepatitis-B vaccine, but said was concerned at the lack of development of a treatment for the 200 million people already carrying the disease.

7m Australian sheep make sea trip to Mideast

By Rory Channing
Reuters

KUWAIT — Millions of Australian sheep take a one-way sea voyage to the Middle East every year aboard huge livestock ships in a lucrative trade that has survived animal-rights protests and the Gulf war.

Up to 120,000 animals at a time occupy air-cooled pens on multi-decked ships, some the size of 10-storey buildings, for the trip lasting 18 days or more.

Despite criticism from animal-rights groups seeking to outlaw 'live traffic', the trade prospers in Arab markets which still cling strongly to traditions that demand fresh meat.

More than seven million sheep made the trip last year, most of them bound for Gulf Arab states and others destined for Egypt and other North African countries.

The 17-year-old trade is worth some \$250 million a year to Australia, which has maintained its hold on the market despite bids by competitors like New Zealand and China.

"I would guess Australia still supplies 75 to 80 per cent of foreign sales to the Middle East and North Africa," said Nasser Al Saad Al Munifi, chairman of Kuwait Livestock and Trading Company (KLTC) which operates a five-vessel fleet.

An Iranian attack on a vessel carrying thousands of sheep up the Gulf to Kuwait last month prompted fears of a disruption in shipments and the possibility of renewed animal-rights protests in Australia.

The Philippines-flag Corriedale Express was hit and set on fire by

an Iranian gunboat in Tehran's bitter war with Iraq, now well into its seventh year.

Around 300 sheep died as a result of the attack. But trade officials said shipments were continuing on schedule as stocks were built up for the Islamic holy month of Ramadan and the subsequent feast of Eid Al Fitr.

Criticism of the trade has centred on accusations of poor conditions causing deaths on the ocean passage, and the Muslim *halal* slaughter ritual under which an animal's throat is slit and it bleeds to death.

There was an outcry abroad after 15,000 sheep died on a ship off Fujairah in the Gulf of Oman over two years ago. The deaths were blamed on ventilation equipment failure.

Australia's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals called for a total ban on live sheep exports, and an Australian senate select committee two years ago said there were possible grounds for concern over the animals' welfare.

Because of the money earned — an estimated seven per cent of total export revenue in 1984-85 — the trade continued, but under close scrutiny. The Australian government appointed a veterinary officer to probe the traffic.

Industry sources said that even before the Fujairah accident, money had poured into improving housing, feeding and other travel conditions.

As debate on the issue swirled in Australia, New Zealand responded to feelers from Gulf states fearing a disruption in trade and lifted a previously-imposed ban on live exports.

Health gap between Britain's rich and poor has widened

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

LONDON — As British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher prepares to bid for five more years of power, the health of the nation has emerged as a hot political issue with figures suggesting the gap between rich and poor is widening.

A number of recent studies have indicated that health inequalities have worsened since Thatcher won power in 1979 with the rich improving their life expectancy rates substantially faster than the poor.

One recent study, carried out by an independent group of statisticians for Sheffield's Labour Council, showed an eight year difference in average life expectancy for two neighbourhoods less than a mile apart.

One was a prosperous middle class district, the other a working class area with a high unemployment rate.

"Increasingly, research points the finger at differences in the standard of living as the major source of health inequalities," said Richard Wilkinson, research fellow of the Sussex University Centre for Medical Research.

"The poor rather than the rich are now more likely to suffer from heart disease, strokes, appendicitis, duodenal ulcers and hypertension. At every stage of their lives, their death rates are higher — often twice as high," he wrote in a recent article in the Times newspaper.

Studies also indicate that unemployment, which has more than trebled to 3.1 million since Thatcher took office, has become a key cause of premature death among men.

A recent report for the state-funded Health Education Council (HEC), which sought to compile all the local and regional health studies of the past seven years, found "convincing evidence of a widening of health inequalities between social groups."

"In general, death rates have declined more rapidly in the higher than in the lower occupational classes ... Indeed, in some respects the health of the lower occupational classes has actually deteriorated against a background of general improvement in the population," the report said.

The report sparked a political

controversy when it became known that HEC Chairman Sir Brian Bailey, a government appointee, had tried to delay its publication.

"It was likely to be a controversial and a sensitive business, particularly in an election year," Bailey said.

The report was the last to be issued by the HEC before it was abolished by the government on April 1, to be replaced by a new body under direct ministerial control.

The HEC's medical officers had never hidden their scepticism about Thatcher's commitment to preventive health policies. Outgoing director-general Dr. David Player accused the government of failing to reduce health inequalities in the country.

"Health inequality is inexcusable in a democratic society that prides itself on being humane," Player said.

Questioned in parliament about the report, Thatcher said she had not read it but argued that class differences in life expectancy and mortality rates were common to all industrial societies.

Her government, she said, had spent more than any of its predecessors on the national health service.

The HEC report acknowledged Britain was not alone in experiencing health inequalities. But it said evidence from other countries, including Sweden and The Netherlands, suggested the health gap between classes could be narrowed by achieving a more even distribution of income within the population.

Junior Health Minister Edwina Currie was pictured on television vigorously pedalling an exercise bicycle while preaching the virtues of fitness to the nation.

Stephen Lock, editor of the British Medical Journal, said it was clear poorer people died earlier partly because they smoked and drank more, had a poorer diet and exercised less than those in higher income groups. But these factors were not in themselves sufficient to explain the gap.

"Poorer people have higher death and sickness rates just because they are poor and because they are less likely to have a job and more likely to live in poor housing and to have had a poorer education," Lock wrote in a recent editorial.



Pretty kitty to some, unnatural menace to others, feral cat on Isla Santa Cruz of the Galapagos Islands regards the camera with a hunter's eye. Indigenous species such as lava lizards and finches fall easy prey to cats, one of many introduced animals that threaten the

remote islands' unique fauna and flora. Pigs, rats, dogs, donkeys, and cattle are others. Feral goats, considered the most destructive of all, are hunted by armed teams.

Goats, cats, pigs, dogs, donkeys ravage native Galapagos wildlife

By Bob Drogin
National Geographic

FUERTO AYORA, Galapagos Islands — When the U.S. warship Essex sank a British whaling fleet in this remote Pacific archipelago in the war of 1812, Capt. David Porter left a herd of goats ashore to help local settlers.

Today Capt. Porter's legacy is still here, a thousandfold.

Officials at the Galapagos National Park have killed or moved hundreds of thousands of wild goats, pigs, dogs, rats — as well as guava trees and other exotic plants — that man has introduced into one of the earth's most unusual ecosystems.

"What the park wants to do is get rid of all the introduced species," says Rodrigo Jacome, a naturalist guide at the Darwin Research Station, a nonprofit scientific institute here. "They are very destructive."

Danger not always obvious

To visitors, the destruction appears limited. Wild and endemic animals still are thick and unafraid. Sea lions are as playful as puppies, marine iguanas sunbath on the rocks, and blue-footed boobies build their nests by the score.

That, at least, hasn't changed since Charles Darwin visited four of these harsh volcanic islands on the HMS Beagle in 1835. The young British naturalist later decided that the unique flora and fauna were key to "that mystery of mysteries" — the origins of life itself — and the basis for his theory of evolution by natural selection.

But the danger is real, officials say.

Wild pigs eat sea-turtle eggs, and black rats eat their hatchlings. Dogs kill endangered Hawaiian petrels and land iguanas. Cats chase lava lizards and finches. Donkeys step on nests. Cattle plow the ground. And goats eat just about anything.

"The Galapagos are very fragile, and when you introduce a new species, you change the balance," says Laura Patino, another naturalist guide.

Feral goats are the worst problem. Armed teams have eliminated goats on five islands in recent years, including more than 100,000 on Santiago and Santa Cruz alone. It is a daunting task, considering the islands' vast lava streams, deep craters, and steep cliffs.

"Whenever we spot a population that is growing too rapidly, we go and hit it," says Darwin station spokesman Ramone Andrade.

"It's not the first time, of course, that man has slaughtered animals on this rugged chain of 15 main islands and numerous islets some 600 miles west of Ecuador."

Stacked alive for year

Whalers in the 1700s and 1800s killed more than 100,000 giant tortoises, often stacking them alive on their backs for up to a year to provide fresh meat on the long sea voyages. Hunters only stopped killing for seals when too few survived to make the hunt economically viable.

Hunting is now illegal. Ecuador declared the islands a national park in 1959, and UNESCO declared them a World Heritage site, or one of the

world's most significant natural areas, 20 years later.

Naturalists at the station now operate breeding pens for the tortoises and have successfully repatriated more than 160 adults to Hood and Pinzon islands, where the species was nearly extinct.

"It's our success story," says Tom Fritts, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist who works with the programme.

But man is still a problem. A record 25,000 visitors — the legal limit — are expected this year. Organized tourism began only in 1969, and the onslaught is taxing the islands as never before.

"Right now we are not looking forward to an increase of visitors," Andrade said. "The islands are so fragile."

The increased traffic already has led to growing pollution. During a recent visit, for example, tin cans, plastic bags, paper, and other trash littered the sandy

ocean bottom at a popular mooring spot near Pinnacle Rock.

"There are a lot of guides who don't control passengers the way they should," Andrade said.

The tourism also has brought new roads, hotels, and settlers to the islands. In March 1985, a highly publicised fire apparently started by a local farmer spread out of control on southern Isabela Island, the largest of the Galapagos.

Penguins and flamingos fled, dozens of tortoises were herded out of harm's way, and 80,000 acres of peaty grasslands slowly burned for more than two months. Since then, however, most plants and animals have returned to the burned areas, officials said.

"What we're seeing is, the Galapagos are very resilient in a biological sense, but very fragile in a human sense," says Justine Cruz, a biologist at the station.

Successful plant breeding with gene injections

By Riser B. Langen

A BREAKTHROUGH in gene transfer with grains has been achieved by geneticists from Madrid, Spain, and Cologne who developed a new method. The scientists injected desoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) which carried the hereditary information for a certain gene in rye seedlings. Several of these plants offspring contained the foreign gene in their genotype, which means that their parents had totally incorporated it and passed it on.

The researchers found their approach to this gene transfer in the development of rye pollen. Dr. Alicia de la Pena of the Universidad Complutense in Madrid subjected young rye plants at various developmental stages to cell division poisons and observed that the mother cells of the pollen, which later produce the pollen grains, were receptive to the incorporation of these poisons at very certain times. Together with Dr. Horst Lutz and Prof. Jeff Schell of the Max-Planck-Institut für Züchtungsforchung (Max Planck Institute for Cultivation Research) in Cologne, Dr. de la Pena concluded: If during this closely defined period of time, namely two weeks prior to the beginning of the formation of the gametes, the poison molecules are able to make their way into the cells, then the pollen mother cells may also be able to absorb other substances, such as DNA.

At that point, the inflorescence was about two centimetres high and surrounded completely by leaves. The DNA which was injected into this sprout contained a

so-called marker gene. A marker gene has well-analysed, easily recognisable effects on the offspring and is used by geneticists to determine whether a gene transfer has been successful or not. The gene used in this experiment carried information for the ability to resist kanamycin, an antibiotic which is also poisonous for plants. The pollen mother cells, which absorb this DNA and firmly incorporate the gene into their own genome, pass it on to the pollen, which in turn transmits it to the seed after insemination. Thus, the transfer to the offspring is achieved.

Ninety-eight rye seedlings were subjected to this test. Once they had grown into plants ready for insemination, they were crossed with one another. Thus, the scientists obtained 3,023 seeds which they tested for the new gene. During these tests, plastic nets kept the grains on the surface of a culture medium containing the poisonous kanamycin. Seedlings which were killed by this treatment could not possibly contain the new gene. In the meantime the marker gene has been found in three plants which developed normally. In these plants the transformation had been successful.

Although the model gene for kanamycin resistance has no significance in the agricultural industry, there are interesting genes available today, for instance genes providing resistance to herbicides or pests. It is also a long-term goal of geneticists to improve the quality of the nutrients contained in grains and to make them resistant to freezing temperatures — German Research Service, Bonn.

Reeds produce clean water

From German Research Service

THEY have been modeled after nature and they fit harmonically into the landscape; they are three biological purification plants which began operating recently. Thus, the root zone procedure developed by Kassel University has now entered the stage of practical application in the purification of sewage.

The main component of the plants is a 60-centimetre-deep basin which is water-tight at the bottom where the groundwater would be affected. It is filled with natural soil and cultivated with reeds. The sewage flows through the root zone vertically so that the bacteria there can absorb and biologically transform the contaminants. The bacteria are provided with oxygen by the reeds, the strong roots of which have the additional advantage of loosening up the soil. It is thus possible to channel large amounts of sewage through the soil.

This procedure was developed by Prof. Reinhold Kickuth and his team at the Fachgebiet Ökochemie der Gesamthochschule Kassel (Department of Ecochemistry, Kassel University). It is now being applied in two plants in Obersülzen in the Rhineland-Palatinate, serving 600 citizens, as well as in the city of Bünde in North-Rhine-Westphalia.

A third facility is used to purify the sewage of a township of 700 people in the greater Kassel area. Here, the sewage passes first through individual sewage treatment systems for the initial rough purifications, and then it is dammed up in a large reed field with the help of two wooden weirs, which also make it possible to control the length of time the water remains in the reed pond. After a given period of time the water flows into a final sewage treatment basin that can be aired artificially in case additional oxygen is called for.

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Leicester, Manchester City join Villa to 2nd division

LONDON (R) — Ian Rush bade farewell to the English soccer league Saturday with a brilliant goal that helped Liverpool draw 3-3 at Chelsea and emphasised to his employers of the last nine years just how much they will miss him.

With Tottenham, next week's English Football Association (F.A.) Cup finalists against Coventry, losing 1-0 at Watford, Liverpool made certain of finishing second in the table behind city-neighbours Everton, who marked the last Saturday of league action with an impressive 3-1 win over Luton.

Despite their high finish, Liverpool have not performed this season with their customary consistency and Rush's departure to Juventus raises doubts about their prospects of remaining the great power they have been for most of the last two decades.

Rush's goal on Saturday — his 39th of the season for Liverpool — was struck home from 15 metres, a typical, unerring effort that has marked him out as one of world soccer's most accomplished strikers.

The goal equalised Gordon Durie's third-minute strike for Chelsea and although the London Club led twice more through John Bumstead and David Speedie, Liverpool levelled on each occasion through Steve McMahon and John Aldridge.

Everton will finish with a nine-point winning margin at the top of the league if they beat Tottenham on Monday.

They preserved their six-point lead on Saturday after falling behind to mark Stein's fifth-minute goal scored from 25 metres. But two goals by Trevor Steven, the first a penalty, and one by Graeme Sharp in an 11-minute spell after halftime crushed Luton's hopes of embarrassing the new champions.

Manchester City, beaten 2-0 at West Ham, and Leicester, frustrated at Oxford where they drew 0-0, joined Aston Villa in being relegated to the Second Division while Charlton, winners over Queen's Park Rangers, must compete in play-offs to preserve their First-Division status.

Charlton, who finished fourth from bottom of the First Division, will play off against Oldham, Leeds and Ipswich, the third, fourth and fifth clubs in the Second Division. The prize will be a place next season in the First Division which is being reduced from 22 to 21 teams.

Derby and Portsmouth were definitely promoted as the top two finishers in the Second Division.

Tottenham and Coventry both failed to win a week before their

appointment at Wembley. Kenny Jackett's 58th-minute goal scuppered Tottenham while Coventry, after Brian Kilcline gave them a 29th-minute lead, were pegged back by George Lawrence's second-half goal for Southampton.

Worse, though, than Lawrence's goal was a leg injury to Coventry full-back Brian Borrows who was carried off and may not be able to face Tottenham next Saturday.

Arsenal, comfortable leaders of the First Division in mid season, finished disappointingly with a 2-1 home defeat against Norwich. It meant they had to be satisfied with fourth place behind Tottenham, assured of finishing third.

Manchester United, who changed managers after the season started and climbed from the foot of the table to a place in the middle, ended with a three-goal flourish against bottom-club Aston Villa. Clayton Blackmore, Mike Duxbury and Bryan Robson scoring the goals.

Rangers, already assured of the Scottish League title, were presented with their trophy on Saturday after beating St. Mirren 1-0 at Ibrox.

There was a carnival atmosphere inside the stadium as a capacity crowd gave the new champions a boisterous reception and reserved a special cheer for their player-manager Graeme Souness who was sent off in Rangers' moment of triumph last week.

Amman Little League May 8

T-Ball	
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Dorna 14	vs Seiko 9
Coach Pitch	
Jordan Worsted Mills 24	vs Nashashibi/Ebbini 21
Jordan Express 20	vs General Computers & Electronics 33
Volvo 20	vs Danish Dairy 25
Kid Pitch	
Ishtiklal 15	vs Furukawa 3
Ericsson 4	vs Samar 5
Wang 9	vs Squibb 12
Soft Ball	
Westing House 10	vs Al-Hayab 0
Eagle Engineering 2	vs Near East 6

Navratilova crashes out of Italian Open

ROME (R) — Martina Navratilova, who has yet to win a tournament this year, crashed out of the Italian Open to top Argentine teenager Gabriela Sabatini 7-6, 6-1 in the semifinals Sunday.

Although she started well, taking the first three games, the world number one lost her authority as Sabatini produced a series of fine returns and passing shots.

Sabatini, 17 next week, clawed her way back from 5-2 down, neutralising two set points and keeping her nerve.

Navratilova, who in five previous encounters had never dropped a set to Sabatini, appeared to

lose all her confidence after conceding the tiebreak 7-2.

She rarely managed to get her first service in and made several double faults at critical moments. Sabatini, running and anticipating well, completely dominated the second set.

"It was the best win of my life," Sabatini, a former Wimbledon semifinalist, said afterwards.

"I knew I had a chance to win and I kept running."

Navratilova, who has not won a tournament since last November, said she lost momentum and became too passive.

"I should have won the first set. Once it got to 5-5 Gabriela

Garrison upsets Mandlikova

TOKYO (AP) — Zina Garrison of the United States upset top-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 in the women's singles semifinals Saturday in the \$200,000 Gunze World Tennis match.

Garrison, the world's 7th ranked player, meets Pam Shriver in the finals Sunday. Shriver beat Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-4, 6-4 in 70 minutes in the semifinals.

Mandlikova, ranked fourth in the world, had problems in her serves and double faulted 11 times during an 84-minute match at Yoyogi National Stadium in Tokyo.

In the first set, Mandlikova led 4-1 but Garrison fought back with accurate shots and tied it 6-6 before playing the tie-breaker in which Mandlikova double faulted after 5-5.

was getting better and better," she said.

"She was passing well and was totally in command in the second set," the seven times Wimbledon champion added.

Navratilova said her own serve and volley style of play was not working on clay and she had to become more aggressive from the baseline.

Sabatini, ranked ninth in the world, will meet West Germany's Steffi Graf, who has yet to lose a match this year, in Sunday's final.

The cool, efficient 17-year-old, took less than an hour to dismiss Czechoslovak Helena Sukova 6-3, 6-3 in the other semifinal.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Turkey qualifies for Davis Cup 2nd round

DAMASCUS (R) — Turkey cruised into the Davis Cup European Zone A second round Saturday with Naveed Qureshi and Aladdin Karagoz beating Syria's Haratch Makarian and Muneer Abu Hassoun 6-0, 6-4, 6-4 in the doubles. Turkey won its opening singles Friday and Saturday's victory puts them in the second round encounter with the Soviet Union. Sports officials said reverse singles would help both nations prepare for the September Mediterranean games in Syria.

Vajda ousts Nystrom, meets teenager

MUNICH (R) — Czechoslovak Marian Vajda brushed aside third-seeded Joakim Nystrom of Sweden 6-4, 6-4 Saturday to meet Argentine teenager Guillermo Perez-Roldan in Sunday's final of the Bavarian Open Tennis Championships. Vajda, 105th in the world, scored his second straight set win over a top 10 player in two days at the \$185,000 tournament with an aggressive style of baseline tennis. The out-of-form Swede, ranked 29th, had an answer to the Czechoslovak's strong, early backhands and did help himself with a poor first serve. Vajda will now meet 17-year-old Perez-Roldan, who ousted American Mel Panfil three sets to qualify for only his second grand prix final.

Improved batting performance by Pakistan

CHELMSFORD, England (R) — A more resolute batting performance by the Pakistan cricketers enabled them to reach five for five on the first day of their three-day match against Essex Saturday. Following their innings defeat by Kent in the practice session, the batsmen were more cautious in the approach. After a slow morning session in which they scored for two, middle order batsman Salim Malik proved the key in the afternoon with an undefeated 65. Former England batsman John Lever took two wickets.

Ballesteros advances in golf tourney

CHEPSTOW, Wales (R) — Tournament favourite Severn Ballesteros shot four birdies in five holes against Irishman P. Walton to move smoothly into the quarterfinals of the grand prix of Europe Matchplay Golf championship Saturday. Ballesteros won 3 and 2 and will meet fellow Spaniard Manuel Pina Saturday afternoon for a place in the last four. Pina overcame Antonio Garrido by two holes in a thrilling all-Spanish duel at St. Pierre. Walton held Ballesteros in check on the bottom nine which both men covered in 35 before the Spaniard's three up with birdies on the 11th and 14th holes as the Irishman's short game skill deserted him. Ballesteros, typically, was full praise for his opponent and said: "the 10th was the vital hole. Philip holed from 15 feet for a birdie and I followed him in. I missed what you know what might have happened?" With four players filling 12 of the 16 third round slots, British Ryder Cup player Sam Torrance spearheaded the home challenge, reaching the last eight with a narrow win over compatriot Morgan.

Bulgarian record blots Pisarenko's return

REIMS, France (R) — Bulgarian super-heavyweight Anni Krastev eclipsed an unsuccessful return by reinstated Soviet Anatoly Pisarenko with a world record on the final day of European Weightlifting Championships Saturday. Krastev hoisted 215.5 kilograms to add 0.5 kilograms to the world record he set in Sofia last November, while Soviet heavy Yury Zakarevich achieved 202.5 kilograms to improve world mark by 1.5 kilograms. But former world champion Pisarenko failed three times at his opening weight of kilograms in the snatch before Krastev entered the fray to 215.5 at the first attempt before failing at 220. It was an auspicious return for Pisarenko to top international competition after a ban imposed by the Soviet weightlifting federation following an incident involving drugs at a Canadian airport at end of 1984.

French driver leads Italian race on final day

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Frenchman Bernard Beguin was Saturday poised to lead the successful comeback of West German car manufacturer BMW on the final day of the ill-fated Corsican Motor Rally.

Beguin increased his lead on the first two sections of the 405-kilometre route from Calvi to Ajaccio to over two minutes, increasing the probability of BMW's first major rally victory for 15 years.

The Frenchman is followed by the two Lancia Deltas of local Corsican Yves Loubet and Italian Massimo Biasini.

The three-day rally has been overshadowed by the death on the first day of French co-driver Jean-Michel Argenti, the fourth fatality in this event in the past three years.

Argenti died when the Peugeot 205 GTI in which he was a passenger smashed through a low brick wall and plunged 50 metres into a ravine. Driver Jean Marchini was seriously injured.

Last year Finnish star Henri

Toivonen and co-driver Sergio Cresto died when their car crashed during the rally and Italian Attilio Bettig was killed in the 1985 event.

Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Automobile Federation, said Saturday safety rules and courses for motor rallies would be changed next year.

"We have always said 1987 is a year of transition. In the light of our experience... technical regulations for the cars and the courses will be modified for 1988," he told reporters.

Balestre said organisers aimed to have production models racing in the rally, and to exclude powerful, custom-built cars that are too fast for the winding roads of Corsica.

The Corsican rally takes drivers along perilous mountainside roads with deep gorges demanding total concentration. Drivers say a moment's slip of concentration has probably been responsible for most accidents.

N. Korea agrees in principle to IOC visit, says Samaranch

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — North Korea has agreed in principle to receive a fact-finding delegation from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) later this month, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Saturday.

After a 50-minute meeting with members of the North Korean National Olympic Committee (NOC), Samaranch told Reuters: "They said 'yes' in principle and we are now waiting for their formal answer."

Samaranch wants to send an IOC mission to Pyongyang to facilitate preparations for a fourth round of bilateral talks between North and South Korean Olympic officials at the IOC's Lausanne headquarters on July 14-15.

The talks could be a final opportunity to resolve the dispute over the staging of the 1988 Seoul Olympics following Pyongyang's demand for a share of the games.

North Korea originally wanted to stage half the 23 sports and is still insisting on a minimum of eight.

It has said it will not accept a compromise agreed by the IOC and the Seoul organisers by which Pyongyang would stage archery,

table tennis and some soccer and cycling.

The IOC visit to Pyongyang was proposed by Samaranch in a telex two weeks ago to the president of the North Korean NOC, Kim Yu Sun. Samaranch said the NOC was studying some of the conditions contained in his telex.

Among the conditions is a proposed inspection by the IOC delegation of access at Panmunjom across the demilitarised zone which has divided the North and South since the end of the Korean war in 1953. The delegates would then travel on to Seoul for a meeting with the South Korean NOC.

"That would be a gesture of goodwill by North Korea and would show the world that they are interested in making efforts to find a possible solution to the dispute. I think it is a good test," Samaranch said.

He added that the delegation would comprise one IOC member, possibly Alexandru Sipero of Romania, and one or two IOC staff officials. He himself did not expect to go to Pyongyang because of a crowded work schedule.

Earlier this week, the secretary-general of the North Korean

NOC, Chang Ung, who met Samaranch Saturday with NOC President Kim, said time was running out if the dispute was to be resolved.

Chang, speaking during a series of IOC meetings in Istanbul, called for the North-South meeting in July to be brought forward. But Samaranch said that would not be possible because of the preparations which had to be made.

However, he added that if negotiations had reached an advanced stage they might continue beyond the IOC's deadline of Sept. 17, one year before the start of the games.

Communist states in Eastern Europe have voiced support for North Korea's demands. But they have shown little inclination to repeat the Soviet-led 15-nation Communist boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Meanwhile, head of IOC has called for unity among sports bodies to protect against outside forces that "have frequently disrupted... fundamental traditions" of the games.

In a speech in Istanbul, President Samaranch said his committee, national Olympic panels and the worldwide sports federations must stand together to repel "the difficulties of the present-day world."

"More than ever before, my friends, it is our unity which is our safeguard," Samaranch said in remarks before 84 IOC members, other sports officials and Turkish government leaders, including President Kenan Evran.

The major item on the agenda for the session, which runs through Tuesday, is a final vote on an eligibility plan allowing pro tennis players to compete for Olympic medals in Seoul.

The plan was approved unanimously by the IOC's executive board last February. Despite signs of some opposition among members opposed to the idea of Boris Becker, Martina Navratilova and other tennis millionaires in the games, it is expected to be ratified by the session.

Also on the agenda are elec-

E. German soccer team emerges from the shadow

EAST BERLIN (R) — Lokomotiv Leipzig, the dark horse of this season's European club soccer tournaments, will finally emerge from the shadow of East Germany's dominant club Dynamo Berlin when they meet Ajax Amsterdam in the Cup Winners' Cup final in Athens on Wednesday.

A team of solid defence and deft counter-attacks, Lokomotiv have confounded the pundits this season — only 20 years after the club's foundation — and will be seeking to become only the second East German club to win the Cup Winners' Cup.

Magdeburg took the trophy in 1974 and Carl Zeiss Jena were beaten finalists in 1981.

Coach Hans-Ulrich Thomele's team have made great strides since winning the East German cup for the second time in 1981 and the last two years have seen them emerge as a force which national team manager Bernd Stange hopes to harness for his ambitious plans.

Lean midfielder Heiko Scholz and defender Matthias Lindner,

were both drafted into the national side to play the Soviet Union after Lokomotiv's penalty shoot-out win against Bordeaux in the semifinals. Both are hungry for honours.

"I won't make any secret of the fact that, like the rest of the team, I'd dreamed of finally making it this far," said goalkeeper and national captain Rene Mueller.

Fresh-faced Mueller, confirmed his standing as the local hero when he saved two penalties against Bordeaux before scoring the decisive goal in the shoot-out.

But Lokomotiv, like other East German sides, struggle to draw big crowds. Their average attendance is only about 10,000 in a national stadium that can take 80,000 and the faithful were given little confidence for the final when they saw their side lose 1-0 at home to Karl-Marx-Stadt last week.

One reason for the poor support may be that soccer has long been the ugly sister of East German sport. The nation's athletes and swimmers have swept many

international honours. But German club teams have won fewer awards than even West German sides.

Lokomotiv have a history of near-successes in Europe. They reached the semifinals of the UEFA Cup in 1974 and the quarter-finals of the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup. The forerunner to the now extinct UEFA Cup, in 1967.

Now they hope to go all the way and possess several players who add credibility to their ambitions. The team includes six internationals with UWE Zeitz and Ronald Kreeer dominating a defence that has conceded 17 goals in 22 matches this season — less than any other side.

The towering Frank Bau captain and centre-back keeps a firm grip of his team's pitch.

Zoetzsche and Kreeer, fast-running, powerful players, are the key to the team's attacking style. They sweep forward on the flank link up with strikers Hans Kretzschmar and Oskar Mehl, a newcomer to the team, and 27-year-old J. Leitzke.

Mathias Leitzke is the field inspiration, a player with fine runs and accurate passing a vital part of the explosive attacking style.

Thomele, has created a full blend of experience and youth and his team should be capable of holding its own in the final.

may lack the attacking power to lift the trophy.

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WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) SUPPLY OF WATER METRES

Date: 09/05/87
Loan No.: 2694/JO
IFB No.: 08/87/WM

- The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of water metres.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 75,000 water metres, 12" size, with a nominal capacity of 1.5 m³ per hour.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the president of the Water Authority, Nabulus Street, Jabal Al Hussein, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 666111. Telex 22439 JO.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 200.
- All bids must be accompanied by a security of JD 6,000 and must be delivered to the above office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday, 20 June 1987.

Eng. Mohammad S. Kilani
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LES SPESIALISTES
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RAGHADA
WARRIOR FROM MANGHURIA
Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

GENEVA (AP) — Poor countries should generate health funds for growing populations by charging citizens for health services and requiring more workers to contribute to national insurance plans, the World Bank said Friday.

A study by the Washington-based lending agency says governments could counter widespread basic inefficiency in the health sector by giving more power to local and regional authorities. It also called on governments to stop discouraging the work of private organisations.

The organisation urges governments to shift attention from funding expensive hospital care for relatively few patients to basic preventative programmes like immunisation, health education and providing drugs.

The document was published in Geneva where it was submitted to the annual assembly of the 166-nation World Health Organisation, attended by some 1,200 delegates.

The study warns that developing countries, hard hit by economic recession, are allocating too little private and public money to meet the organisation's goal of ensuring basic health care for all people by the year 2000.

"Basic health activities are unable to expand enough to meet the great needs of rapidly growing populations, even though households have shown they are willing to pay some of the costs of health care," it says.

Few private money goes to "low-cost services which are most cost-effective in improving health. Even if public resources were better allocated, current levels of spending would probably not be sufficient," the report says.

Individuals already pay more than half of the health care bill in the Third World, mostly for drugs and doctor fees, it says.

In the 24 poorest nations, central government spending on health care fell from an average 4.6 per cent of the budget in 1972 to 2.7 per cent in 1983, according to the study.

LONDON (AP) — Britain's four major banks on Friday cut their base lending rate to nine per cent from 9.5 per cent, effective Monday. Barclays Bank Plc was the first to cut its rate by half a percentage point and Midland Bank Plc, National Westminster Bank Plc and Lloyds Bank Plc, followed suit. The Bank of England earlier in the day signalled approval of a one-half percentage point cut in the rate by cutting its own money market rates half a point. Prime industrial borrowers usually pay one percentage point over the base rate. It was the fourth cut in the base rate this year. The banks cut their rate just last week, bringing it under 10 per cent for the first time in over two years.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1987

her, communicate better with others throughout life. Fine education is important here and should be slanted along the lines of public service.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Sunday, May 3, '87 and ending Wednesday, May 6, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Bank	1832	3811	2.120	2.188	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	874	1822	3.050	2.100	1,000
Jordan Jordan Bank	3367	5286	1.580	1.610	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	3654	2517	1.320	1.240	1,000
Housing Bank	310	512	1.650	1.650	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1000	2170	2.150	2.170	1,000
Cairo Arabian Bank	960	21313	22.500	22.600	5,000
Bank of Jordan	1128	19855	17.800	17.550	5,000
Arab Bank Ltd	630	7755	123.800	122.500	10,000
Jordan National Bank	17732	43545	2.470	2.460	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	238080	202190	0.850	0.850	1,000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	2404	2639	1.620	1.600	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	18550	14665	0.800	0.790	1,000
National Financial Investments	72930	98471	1.350	1.350	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	5372	3646	0.690	0.680	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	14087	1323	0.890	0.890	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	12664	17578	1.390	1.390	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10,000
Insurance and Reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	8767	41309	4.700	4.650	1,000
REFCO Life Insurance	3512	3076	0.870	0.880	1,000
Jordan Insurance	757	8792	11.300	11.710	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	25475	21144	0.830	0.830	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	3000	3150	1.040	1.050	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	4000	2960	0.750	0.740	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	1232	944	0.770	0.760	1,000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Insurance	18000	27000	1.500	1.500	1,000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
Al-Izdihar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Ahliya Insurance	5017	5519	1.200	1.100	1,000
Services and Industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	17027	9162	0.570	0.560	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	2000	860	0.420	0.430	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	545	381	0.700	0.700	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	12065	1751	0.650	0.640	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajereco	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	40485	6091	1.530	1.500	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	350	910	2.600	2.600	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	780	1380	1.700	1.800	1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	5300	2332	0.460	0.440	1,000
Jordan Dairy	1356	1588	1.160	1.180	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	2428	4745	1.950	1.950	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	31815	27929	0.890	0.900	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	4550	8873	1.950	1.950	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	1625	2091	1.270	1.290	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	15716	71047	5.100	5.600	1,000
Aladdin Industries	11850	10658	0.920	0.920	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	188876	326505	1.750	1.850	1,000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	16875	7598	4.310	4.500	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	1324	1377	1.050	1.040	1,000
Chemical Industries	3607	3865	1.060	1.060	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	9100	4450	0.490	0.490	1,000
Dar Al Daiwa' for Development and Investment	8969	11077	1.220	1.250	1,000
National Steel Industries	54781	122845	2.280	2.300	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Mining	50	75	1.500	1.500	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3961	28531	7.200	7.200	5,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	39199	11229	0.270	0.280	1,000
National Industries	2700	1590	0.580	0.600	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	600	516	0.900	0.860	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	15465	18247	1.200	1.170	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1500	3600	2.500	2.480	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	6200	3008	0.490	0.480	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tanning	1425	2665	1.900	1.870	1,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	30	347	11.550	11.550	5,000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	4099	5258	0.870	0.900	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	28658	21498	0.750	0.790	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	183718	508414	3.250	3.160	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	59836	58247	1.000	0.990	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	7050	5618	0.880	0.800	1,000
Grand total	1,201,701	1,997,833			

KYRENIA, North Cyprus (R) — Turkey has proposed talks with Damascus on possible joint exploration of newly-found natural gas reserves in Syria and an export pipeline, a senior Turkish official said Saturday.

Mr. Yousuf Ozal, undersecretary at the state planning organisation, told Reuters he had made an initial approach to Damascus after the U.S. firm Marathon Oil discovered a gas field of some three trillion cubic feet.

Turkey had no great need for extra energy sources but the idea of a pipeline could be of mutual interest, he said. "They (the Syrians) have nowhere else to sell it," he added.

Mr. Ozal earlier told an economic conference that the Syria link had a better chance of being realized than a \$12 billion pipeline from Qatar to Europe via Turkey, which Ankara has been pursuing for some two years with the Gulf Arab state.

Turkey was still interested in the Qatar pipeline, which he said would go via Greece to connect with the European pipeline net-

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's proposals to stem the flow of Soviet arms to Cuba, a few of his proposals were likely to be approved by Congress.

The American Petroleum Institute (API), the major industry group, said President Reagan's recommendations were "disappointing." It said "they do not go far enough."

Mr. Eli Bergman, executive director of Americans for Energy Independence, said that with the

President Reagan's proposals were in response to a Department of Energy study that said oil warnings raised by the Energy Department's report "you would think the administration would

imports were rising, could hit 50 per cent of consumption by the mid-1990s and have potentially damaging implications for the nation's security.

Imports, chiefly from the unstable Middle East, are now nearly 40 per cent of American consumption.

The study, without making recommendations, said imports could be curbed in several ways, including imposing a fee on fore-

ign oil, stepping up conservation efforts and providing tax incentives to domestic producers.

Energy Secretary John Herrington made one recommendation — that domestic producers

President Reagan rejected

In a message to Congress last

Wednesday President Reagan recommended speeding up purchases for the U.S. strategic pet-

roleum reserve as a cushion against any oil embargo and changes in tax laws that he said

He also repeated his earlier

calls for opening federal lands in Alaska and in waters off California for exploration and to end invited towards the end of this 1992.

controls on natural gas.
Congressional observers said

THE BETTER HA

HARRIS

COVERLY

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN PASS AN OPINION ON SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE WHEN YOU KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT YOUR OWN.

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, PET.

YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT ANY MAN'S WIFE BY WHERE HE LANDS AFTER GETTING UP FROM THE TABLE - IN FRONT OF THE TELLY OR IN FRONT OF THE KITCHEN SINK.

"You're NOT Captain Kirk, I'm not a Klingon and your bubble gum 'energy shield' is stupid!"

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHOPE


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GATEA

AMMAND

LAGYAX

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: " THAT'S  (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGONY ENACT BUCKLE NICELY
Answer: What her companions called that stupid hen A RIG CLUCK

ACROSS

- 1 Seasoned rice
- 6 Hermit
- 11 Frigid
- 14 Excuse
- 15 Hermit
- 16 gawling
- 17 Hurdn'g gp.
- 17 Sheets
- 18 Flitch
- 19 Stomum
- 20 Consume
- 21 When a certain scholar came
- 24 Amerylls
- 25 Pig ascuide
- 26 Called by King Cole
- 27 Hittage
- 33 Comp. pt.
- 34 Defense arm
- 35 Measure
- 37 Liquid measure
- 41 Fruit drink
- 42 Sp. sh.
- 43 Blackbirds
- In a pile
- 48 Rear
- 50 Money in form
- 51 of some porridge
- 55 Repetitable
- 56 Reputously
- 59 Lucie
- 60 Twint e.g.
- 62 Lyric poem
- 63 Bury
- 64 Guanoeco
- 65 According to
- 66 Coasting
- 67 bobber

DOWN

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51

DOWN	36	Crate's highest mountain	46	Buzzes	53	Bernie
1 Ashen	37	Baker's shovel	47	Seasame	54	Part H
2 Pelvic bones	38	Tavern	48	Pry	55	Polka
3 Fuzz	39	Negative	49	Mark over a letter	56	Sumo
4 Honest	40	Subject to strain	50	Crash	57	Coedy
5 Last of all	41	Wrap with bendages	51	Novelist	58	Compl
6 More expensive	42	Car part	52	Crash	59	Crash
7 Sheltered	43	Crude metal	60	Novelist	61	Crash
8 Desolate	44	Novelist	62	Crash	63	Crash
9 Akron's state	45	Novelist	64	Crash	65	Crash
10 If will	46	Novelist	66	Crash	67	Crash
11 Reche	47	Novelist	68	Crash	69	Crash
12	48	Novelist	70	Crash	71	Crash

8 IRA members killed during N. Ireland attack

BELFAST (Agencies) — James Lynagh, one of the most wanted members of Irish Republican Army (IRA), was among eight guerrillas killed in a gun and bomb attack Friday night on a village police station in Northern Ireland, police said Saturday.

Lynagh, suspected by security forces of involvement in dozens of IRA killings, is believed to have led the attack in which Loughgall Police Station in County Antrim was devastated by a huge guerrilla bomb.

British newspapers reported that the IRA had driven into an ambush laid by troops of British Army's Elite Special Air Service (SAS) regiment, which is highly trained in anti-guerrilla tactics, but there was no official comment on this.

A senior Irish Republican source commented: "It's obvious the police were tipped off and waiting."

In the worst setback ever suffered by the outlawed IRA in their battle to oust the British from Northern Ireland, the gunmen were shot down by police and troops as they rammed the police station's gates with a giant mechanical digger.

A civilian caught in the bloody shootout was also killed and four other people wounded.

A bomb placed on the front of the digger exploded, devastating the police station. Masked gunmen burst out of a waiting van to attack the station but were then cut down by security forces.

Children in the Loughgall Vil-

lage Hall had dive for cover as the force of the exploding bomb smashed windows and sent shards of glass flying across the street.

Police refused to say whether they had been tipped off by Northern Ireland Police Chief Sir John Hermon had gone on television only hours before to say that tougher tactics would be used against the IRA in future.

One weeping teenager soon on the scene after one of the most violent clashes ever seen in this strife-torn province told reporters: "I saw bodies littering the roadway, police and troops were running everywhere. I grabbed my little brother and rushed back into the house."

A woman said: "We could hear the bullets ricocheting off the walls, windows were blown in and it must have been half an hour before we considered it safe enough to come out."

The IRA had killed nine policemen in an upsurge of violence this year and the guerrilla group pulled off a major coup last month when a massive car bomb on the Irish border killed a senior Northern Ireland judge and his wife.

Police and troops sealed off the village after the bloody gunbattle and local hospitals were put on

full alert to deal with casualties — two policemen, a soldier and a civilian who were wounded.

Police said the attack was obviously well planned and the raiders, wearing boiler suits, intended to kill anyone inside the station. The number of officers on duty was not revealed.

Twice before, the IRA have used mechanical diggers to smash their way into small county police stations, causing widespread damage but no casualties.

Meanwhile, Catholic youths took to the streets of West Belfast for a third straight night of rioting that continued into Saturday's pre-dawn hours. Catholic youths also rioted in Londonderry, the province's second largest city.

The IRA did not immediately claim responsibility for the police station attack.

But Sinn Fein, its legal political wing, expressed condolences to the dead men's families. It said the attackers "gave their lives on behalf of the (Irish) nationalist people."

The mainly Roman Catholic IRA is fighting to drive the British from Northern Ireland. It wants to unite the predominantly Protestant province with the overwhelmingly Catholic Irish Republic.

James Molynaux, leader of the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party, said he hoped security forces would not be accused of gunning down the attackers without giving them a chance to surrender.

Over 190 feared dead in Chinese ferry accident, forest fire

PEKING (AP) — More than 90 passengers and crew were feared dead after their ferry collided with a tugboat and capsized in the Yangtze River near the eastern Chinese coast, according to Chinese news reports Saturday.

Seven survivors had been rescued and 60 bodies recovered from among the 98 passengers and four crew members, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The ferry Jiangsu-0130 was sailing Friday from the eastern city of Nantong in Jiangsu province to Changshu when it crashed into the tugboat at about 11:15 a.m. (0215 GMT), the agency said.

The double-decker wooden ferry sank immediately, throwing the passengers and crew overboard, the Shanghai newspaper Wenhui Bao said.

The exact number of casualties was unknown. But an official from the Nantong Shipping Company, which owns the ferry, earlier told the Associated Press the number was probably more than 100.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation, the paper said. Xinhua said the ferry had already been salvaged.

The official, who did not wish to be identified, said the tugboat was not damaged and no one on it was injured or killed.

In a separate development an estimated 100 people were reported killed in a massive forest fire that has been raging in north east China since Wednesday afternoon, Xinhua says.

Aircraft have dropped 400,000 kilograms (440 tonnes) of food and clothing to the affected area in Mohe county, Heilongjiang province, Xinhua said.

By Friday evening, the fires had blackened 500 square kilometres of forest. Satellite pictures examined by the National Weather Bureau indicated that the fire's path was more than 100 kilometres long and more than 40 kilometres wide, Xinhua said.

The fire broke out simultaneously in four areas Wednesday afternoon and spread rapidly due to high winds. Its cause is still unknown, it said.

Democrats sad at Hart withdrawal from race

WASHINGTON (R) — Democratic leaders reacted Saturday with sadness, relief and outrage at Gary Hart's exit from the presidential race after a week of intense press scrutiny into his private life.

But most said they did not believe the episode would damage the other seven Democrats vying for the White House.

"I think he was sabotaged," said Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson. "He really was set up."

Rev. Jackson told a television interviewer the Miami newspaper, which put a team of reporters on his trail and watched Mr. Hart's Washington house, was part of the process.

"It raises some profound questions about journalistic ethics and limits," Mr. Jackson said.

Geraldine Ferraro, the unsuccessful Democratic vice-presidential candidate in 1984 who was dogged by reports about alleged improper real estate deals by her husband, said Mr. Hart had no choice but to pull out of the race.

"I think he was absolutely right to do it, to walk away from it now, because he's correct, there's no way to get away from the issue of Gary Hart — and it's not 100 days, it's 18 months," she told a television interviewer.

Democratic presidential hopeful Richard Gephardt commented: "Gary Hart's withdrawal from the race today is saddening. The ordeal he, his family, staff and supporters have gone through now ends, and my personal sympathies are with him and them."

Representative John Dingell, a Michigan Democrat, said Mr. Hart's withdrawal improved Democratic prospects in 1988.

"I think it benefits, generally, the prospects of a Democratic president being elected in 1988. The Democrats are able to select a candidate who will not carry the liabilities that Mr. Hart would have carried into that race."

House speaker Jim Wright said he was surprised at Mr. Hart's decision but said the Democrats had other good candidates.

"It makes it more fluid than it was," Mr. Wright said on television. "It's a wide open. We have a lot of very confident candidates, a lot of able, attractive people."

Former Senator George McGovern, whose 1972 Democratic presidential campaign was managed by Mr. Hart, said he was outraged at the Miami Herald's surveillance of Mr. Hart and at reporters who asked him

later if he had ever committed adultery.

"No candidate in history has ever been subjected to that kind of brutal close-in work, a stake-out at his private residence," Sen. McGovern said. "I find that demeaning, both to the press and to the candidates."

Democratic Senator William Proxmire said he was sorry to see Mr. Hart drop out of the race because he was a leading advocate of arms control.

"The withdrawal of Gary Hart is unfortunate for our country and the world," Sen. Proxmire, a Wisconsin Democrat, said in a Senate speech. "He has left a legacy of good sense."

Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, another Democratic presidential candidate, said he has "a feeling of real sadness" over Hart's decision to drop out of the race.

"While the campaign will of course go on, I personally feel very sorry that Gary Hart will not be a part of it," Mr. Dukakis told a Boston radio station.

He said Mr. Hart had raised some very important ideas and issues that will continue to be debated by the other candidates in the race.

Asked about his status as a possible frontrunner in the first primary in New Hampshire, Mr. Dukakis said: "The frontrunner in this race is a guy called undecided by a very large margin."

"My job now is to run a strong and good and positive campaign."

Commenting on the look into Mr. Hart's personal life Mr. Dukakis said "you know that you are going to be subject to some pretty intense public scrutiny" when you run for public office. He said he was prepared for such scrutiny.

He hoped he would be judged on "what I say and what I stand for."

Hart goes back into hiding

Meanwhile, Mr. Hart Saturday went into seclusion after pulling out of the race for the 1988 presidential nomination and leaving his Democratic Party with the prospect of a protracted battle to find a candidate.

Mr. Hart withdrew to the Rocky Mountain foothills with his wife of 28 years after announcing the end of his campaign Friday at a Denver hotel.

The pullout came five days after a newspaper published allegations that he had been having an extra-marital affair.

Barbie trial starts in Lyon on Monday

LYON, France (R) — Former Gestapo Officer Klaus Barbie will step into the dock here on Monday charged with crimes against humanity, marking the end of a complex four-year legal battle to bring him to trial in France.

Since his arrival from Bolivia in February 1983, French lawyers and investigating magistrates have tiptoed through a legal minefield so big that it was widely

believed the 73-year-old "butcher of Lyon" would never come to trial.

Many witnesses and alleged victims of Barbie are now so old that court officials have had to install a special medical aid centre close to the courtroom to care for the aged and cope with the possible mental distress of reopening old wounds.

Barbie, sought for 11 years by authorities, has been twice sent-

enced to death in his absence by military courts, first in 1952 and then in 1954, for executing 4,000 people, deporting 7,000 and arresting 14,000.

Registered as a Bolivian citizen in 1957 under the name Klaus Altmann, Barbie was expelled from La Paz in 1983 for having used a false identity to obtain citizenship and handed to police in nearby French Guiana.

Hundreds flee Jaffna for fear of fresh army attack

COLOMBO (R) — Hundreds of people living near a hospital in the rebel-controlled town of Jaffna have fled because they fear an imminent offensive by the Sri Lankan army, residents told Reuters Saturday.

The residents, who were visiting the capital Colombo, said the town was very tense early this week after the government announced plans to close Jaffna hospital on May 8.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali Friday postponed the closure after appeals from a delegation of Jaffna doctors and residents.

"When I left Jaffna on Wednesday, houses and shops close to the hospital were being cleared, lorries were coming early in the morning to load things and stocks from shops," said one resident, who declined to be identified.

"We were expecting heavy bombardment and shelling from the army and people felt the hospital was too close to any imminent military action," another resident said.

Both said schools in and

around the town of about 180,000 people had been shut since last week because residents were worried about a possible army attack to recapture Jaffna.

Jaffna residents told Reuters the decision to suspend the closure of the 1,015-bed hospital, the country's third largest, would help calm people.

The Teaching Hospitals Ministry early this week said the hospital would be temporarily closed on May 8 and its facilities transferred to two other hospitals in the peninsula.

It said there had been loss of life and equipment in the hospital because Tamil rebels had ignored an agreement not to use the area as a firing range.

The ministry postponed the closure on condition that the rebels steered clear of the area around the hospital, sources at Friday night's meeting with Mr. Athulthumudali said.

They said the delegation agreed to arrange a meeting between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the army to agree on a ceasefire zone.

U.S. probes civilian negligence in Moscow embassy spy case

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has launched a criminal investigation into "gross negligence" by present and past U.S. civilian employees in the Moscow embassy sex and spy case.

The investigation was revealed by outgoing FBI Director William Webster Friday in a letter to Senator Ernest Hollings, a South Carolina Democrat, who has been demanding a probe of civilians as well as Marine guards in the episode.

"The FBI has been investigating a number of current and former Department of State and other U.S. government employees in connection with the U.S. embassy Moscow situation," Mr. Webster wrote.

Until the announcement, the FBI had only been monitoring a probe by naval investigators into Marines who had sexual relations with Soviet female spies, who apparently let agents steal top U.S. secrets from the embassy.

Sen. Hollings had been pressing the FBI to make a full-scale probe of civilian involvement in the scandal, and on Wednesday announced he would block Mr. Webster's confirmation as the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) until he got a response.

As a result of the letter, the senator announced he would let the Webster nomination go through the senate, probably next week. The Senate Intelligence Committee unanimously approved Mr. Webster to succeed the late William Casey to head the spy agency.

In his letter, Mr. Webster said the unidentified civilians were being investigated under criminal laws covering "gross negligence" but he said that the details of the probe were "classified."

Separately, Arthur Hartman, former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Friday branded as irresponsible charges by U.S. Navy Secretary James Webb that he allowed the Soviet KGB spy agency "extraordinary access" to the American embassy in Moscow.

Mr. Hartman, after a speech to a private group here, told reporters: "I resent a secretary of the navy who would make such an irresponsible charge without speaking to me."

Peace rallies held across S. Union

MOSCOW (R) — Anti-war rallies were held across the Soviet Union Saturday to mark the 42nd anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany.

Veterans from World War II, known here as the Great Patriotic War, gathered in Moscow and other major cities for traditional informal reunions in parks and squares.

In Moscow's Gorky Park, veterans, some wearing their wartime uniforms, defied damp, win-

dy weather and danced to military bands. Some held up photographs of former comrades they hoped to find in the crowd while others sat on benches swapping pictures of their children and grandchildren.

Meanwhile, people of all ages joined rallies organised by the Communist Party in support of contemporary Soviet arms initiatives.

Mass rallies had taken place in Leningrad and Kiev, a torchlit

march was held in the Black Sea city of Kerch and a peace cycle race was underway in the Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk, TASS news agency reported.

Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov, writing in the Communist party daily Pravda, said the lesson of the victory was that peace should be actively defended. In modern times, he said, peace should be defended against such projects as the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

'Bangladesh will be Islamic Republic one day'

DHAKA (R) — President Hossein Mohammad Ershad has renewed a promise that he will turn secular Bangladesh into an Islamic Republic because an overwhelming majority of its 100 million people are Muslims.

The 57-year-old president also assured Bangladesh's Hindus, Christians and Buddhists that religious freedom would continue to be guaranteed.

"Inshallah (God willing), we shall enforce Islamic laws in our homeland one day," Gen. Ershad told a gathering Friday at the funeral of a Muslim fundamental-

ist leader, Moulana Mohammadullah Hafeez Huzur.

An estimated 100,000 people attended the funeral of Huzur, who believed that Bangladesh people would prosper if they could adopt an Islamic way of life.

It was the second time Gen. Ershad has said he will turn Bangladesh into an Islamic Republic. His similar assertion four years ago drew a storm of protest from civilian opponents.

Most opposition leaders said at the time he was using Islam to attract funds from the oil-rich

Arab states and was in the process of undermining secularism, which is enshrined in the constitution as a national objective.

An estimated 87 per cent of Bangladesh's population are Muslim, with Hindus making up 11 per cent, Buddhists 0.6 per cent and Christians 0.3.

Awami League chief and the parliamentary opposition leader Sheikh Hasina warned that Gen. Ershad was risking civil war by "playing his Islamic card."

"This country was born in the name of secularism. Fundamentalism has no place in our society," she told Reuters.

Maltese vote in close general election

VALLETTA (R) — Long queues built up at polling stations Saturday when Malta began voting in a general election that will pass judgment on 16 years of socialist rule.

The election promises to be a close contest between the ruling Labour Party of Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici and the Nationalist Party, led by lawyer Edward Fenech Adami.

Hundreds of voters were already lined up when polling stations opened their doors in Labour and Nationalist strongholds in the capital Valletta at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT).

One frustrated voter kicked on the door when his polling station was 10 minutes late opening.

There were no early reports of violence after a tense campaign that ended with shots fired at a Labour club and a grenade blast at the home of a Labour activist on Thursday.

Party officials anticipate a turnout of about 95 per cent — about the same as in the last election in 1981 — in the highly polarised electorate of about 240,000.

The Nationalists won 51 per cent of the vote in 1981 but Labour took more seats under a system of proportional representation that has now been replaced.

The Nationalists, campaigning for a change in economic policy to boost the private sector and closer links with Europe, were encouraged by drawing bigger crowds at local rallies.

Labour, seeking a fourth five-year term in office, has been under attack for inefficiency and corruption in the public sector, and for being too friendly with Libya.

Saturday's election is the first for Mifsud Bonnici since the resignation of former Labour Prime Minister Dom Mintoff in 1984.

Mr. Mintoff, Malta's charismatic leader for 13 years, is standing in the election but both parties hint that he may be elected president by the new parliament with bipartisan approval of new powers over divisive issues like broadcasting and the security forces.

Mr. Mifsud Bonnici told reporters that he met Friday with

Nationalist leader Eddie Fenech Adami to discuss ways to contain any violence that might break out during voting or when the result is announced.

Maltese politics has been scarred by thuggery, shooting and bombing unusual in the generally law-abiding country and since November one Nationalist has been killed and 50 more people injured in violent incidents.

In the election, 242 candidates are competing for 65 seats in parliament.

The two chief parties dominate the election but two small new contenders are on the sidelines: the Communist Party and the Democratic Party. Neither is expected to win more than a few hundred of the vital "first preference" votes.

The candidates are mostly from the professional classes of the small community and some families even produce two candidates. Father and son or man and wife — in the prime minister's case. He is competing against his Nationalist brother.

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UAE bans monkey imports

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has banned monkey imports because of fears they could spread disease, including the killer AIDS virus, an official said Monday. A spokesman for the General Secretariat of UAE Municipalities told Reuters the ban applied to monkey imports by merchants and individual travellers. Secretariat President Qasim Sultan, quoted by Al Khaleej newspaper, said the move was "a precaution against diseases we think they (monkeys) may carry, particularly AIDS." Researchers say AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) may have originated in the green monkey of Central Africa.

Judge goes on sex-for-lenient trial

FORT WORTH, Texas (R) — A prominent judge who went "middle-age crazy" has gone on trial accused of engaging in sexual orgies with prostitutes and other female defendants to whom he promised leniency. The lurid details being revealed in the case are drawing standing-room-only crowds to the federal court here. So far this week, the packed courtroom has been told that Judge Thomas Cave, 57, engaged in sex with women at his home, in hotel rooms and even in his chambers in exchange for light sentences. Defence lawyer Tim Evans said he went "middle-age crazy." Monica Cozby, 24, a waitress with drug and theft convictions, and Dedria Nelson, 24, a prostitute, told the court they had engaged in sex with Cave after being told he would help them with their cases. Nelson gave an account of orgies involving herself and Cave, together with other women and even with Cave's son, Paul, a 31-year-old construction worker. Cave was indicted on charges of having violated the civil rights of several women by coercing them into sexual activity in exchange for probation and suspended sentences.

Fans honour Sherlock Holmes

REICHENBACH FALLS, Switzerland (R) — Sherlock Holmes returned from his mortal battle with arch-foe Professor Moriarty by parachute at the Reichenbach Falls as fans marked the 100th anniversary of the creation of fiction's best-loved detective. The re-enactment of Holmes' desperate struggle with Moriarty on a narrow path above the falls was the climax of a 10-day pilgrimage to Switzerland by 71 Holmes' fans from around the world. "I Sherlock Holmes am alive. I have defeated the evil Moriarty," said Holmes, sporting his familiar hooked pipe and deerstalker hat. Commenting on the novel twist to the original story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Jean Conan Doyle, 74, the author's only surviving child, said: "I think my father would have been intensely amused." Sherlock Holmes' enthusiasts from as far away as Japan turned up at the Reichenbach Falls, the "dreadful cauldron," where a bored Conan Doyle tried to kill off his hero in the short story The Final Problem. But a captivated Victorian audience would not allow Holmes to disappear and Conan Doyle was forced to contrive a miraculous survival at the Reichenbach Falls and Holmes' reappearance. "The problem is that we are told Holmes survives but we are not told how he comes back," said Albert Kunz of the Swiss Tourist Office in London who organised the pilgrimage. "So why not out of the heavens this time?" he said, as justification for Holmes' parachute leap. British author Philip Porter played Holmes and retired lawyer Anthony Howlett took on Moriarty's part as the two acted out their battle 10 times for the benefit of photographers.

Cannes festival spotlights talent

CANNES, France (AP) — With the success of "Chronicle of a Death Foretold," the tragic tale of vengeance directed by Italian veteran Francesco Rosi, the Cannes Film Festival has lived up to its reputation as a showcase for talent, old and new. Based on Gabriel Garcia Marquez' novel by the same name, the film marks Rosi's first feature since Carmen, the dramatic film rendition of the Georges Bizet opera that delighted international audiences in 1983. Filmed on location in Colombia, Chronicle of a Death Foretold is the poignant story of a young bride, portrayed by Italy's Ornella Muti, who is rejected by her husband, played by Britain's Rupert Everett, when he discovers she is not a virgin. Following the tradition of defending the family honour, Angela's brothers force her to reveal her lover's name, played by France's Anthony Delon, and they kill him. With his striking dark features and resemblance to his famous movie star father Alain, the 23-year-old Delon is the festival's biggest revelation thus far.

Ship to rescue crew on floating station

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet nuclear-powered ice breaker sailed from the Arctic port of Murmansk Friday to rescue personnel on a polar research station drifting toward Greenland, according to the news agency TASS. TASS said the ice breaker Sibir will travel 2,776 kilometres, most of it through Arctic ice, to the researchers on the floating North Pole-27 Station. Previous reports in the Soviet media have said the crew on the research station are in danger. TASS did not say how many people are at the station, or where exactly it is located. TASS quoted Artur Chuligayev, head of the expedition, as saying that after rescuing the crew of North Pole-27 the Sibir will cross the Kara Sea and enter the Laptev Sea where a new station will be set up. It said that reconnaissance flights indicate the ice conditions will be very difficult and experts expect the trip to take up to 40 days.

Cyanide discharged in river kills fish

PEKING (AP) — More than 50 tonnes of fish were killed when cyanide discharged from a textile factory polluted 40 kilometres of the Meijiang River in southern Guangdong province, a state-run daily said Saturday. The municipal chemical textile complex in Maoming city leaked nearly 200 kilograms of cyanide solution into the river on April 5 because of a mechanical malfunction, the China Daily said, quoting an earlier report in the China Environmental News. Large quantities of sea fish, shrimp, crabs and clams in the estuary of the river have also been poisoned, it said. The report said the accident had seriously damaged the river's aquatic resources and threatened both local animal husbandry and the health of local people. It was the second major reported case of river contamination this year. The China Environmental News in March said a fertilizer factory in north eastern Shanxi province discharged poisonous chemicals into a channel leading into the Nanzhang River. Some 20,000 people became ill from drinking contaminated water.

16-year-old faces death penalty

VANCOUVER, Wa. (R) — A 16-year-old youth was found guilty of three counts of murder in a case that shocked this small Pacific north west town and may put him on Washington state's death row. The defendant, Sean Stevenson, whose hometown on the Columbia River about 160 kilometres east of Vancouver was named after his ancestors, was convicted of killing his stepfather James Butler, 48, his mother Margaret Butler, 35, and his sister Amy Stevenson, 18. The three were shot to death last New Year's Day, and the girl had been raped. Prosecutors, who said they will seek the death penalty, maintained during the trial that Stevenson was a just-driven killer who had a "bad relationship" with his stepfather. The penalty phase is expected to begin next week, prosecutors said. Stevenson showed little emotion when the verdict was read in Clark County Superior Court.

Condemned men beat executioner senseless

LAGOS (R) — Dozens of condemned men beat the executioner senseless during a riot at a Nigerian jail but could not prevent two convicts being hanged, newspapers reported. They said 70 men on death row went on the rampage at Bonin prison, east of Lagos. Two hundred police opened fire and used tear gas to bring the riot under control. The daily Sketch said the riot was "a very serious" and the rioters ordered transferred to another prison.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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JUST ENOUGH ENTRIES!

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K Q	♠ A 9 8 3 2	♠ J 10 7	♠ 9 7 6
♥ K 4 3	♥ 3	♥ Q 7 2	♥ Q 7 2
♦ A K J 10 9	♦ A K J	♦ 10 9 6 5	♦ 10 9 6 5
♣ A K J	♣ A K J	♣ 10 9 6 5	♣ 10 9 6 5

The bidding:
North East South West
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♣ Pass 6 ♣ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Make sure you have enough entries for the task at hand. If there are not, you might need some creative play to make up for the shortfall.

After a negative response to his forcing two club opening, North showed his power by jumping to three no trump. South's four no trump was invitational, not Blackwood, and North accepted by showing his long suit. When South decided to play in the suit because of his four-card support, a quirk of the auction made him the declarer. We have seen better auctions.